

# STEWARDSON

1874 - 1974

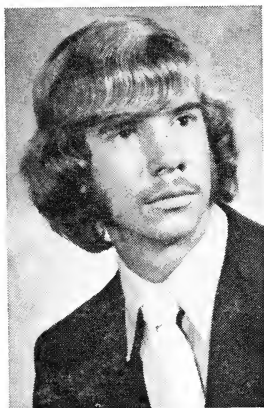


ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

# STEWARDSON

## The First 100 Years

History of the Village of Stewardson,  
Prairie Township and Vicinity



**Steve Strohl** drew the design for the Centennial Emblem on the front of this book. The Centennial Emblem is being used on the commemorative coins, centennial plates, and stationery.

Steve is a 1974 senior at the Stewardson-Strasburg High School. He is the son of Paul and Mildred Strohl of Stewardson, Ill. Steve received a savings bond for his winning entry in the Centennial Emblem contest. This contest was held by the Stewardson Civic Stewards.

### Stewardson

I took a walk through time today  
And to my great surprise  
I saw a small community form  
Right before my eyes.

Homes were built of logs and clay  
Hard work was a common chore  
It all happened one hundred years ago,  
And no one could ask for more.

All this time the Village grew  
Happiness and tragedy going hand in  
hand

Stewardson, we called our site  
For us, it was the promised land.

We've weathered six or seven wars  
Bank failures and depressions, we've  
had our share

We fought and won the hardships  
Why? Because the people care.

The bell of our grade school rings no  
more

We miss it's friendly peal  
Eventually consolidation had to come  
Regardless of how we feel.

Our churches proudly number four  
And call from near and far,  
Serving all people who will respond  
No matter who they are.

We would not fail to mention  
The most important part  
The People! Large, small, young and  
old  
They are why Stewardson has a heart.

—By Arnieta Strohl.

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*This book is dedicated to our Oldest Citizen, Mrs. Dora York*

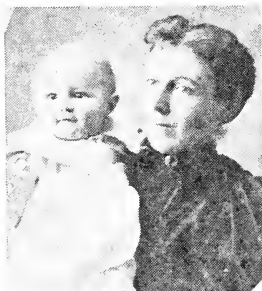


**Mrs. Dora York**

Mrs. Dora York, the oldest living Stewardson citizen was born in 1872. She says she was born in a little cottage on the north side of Main Street. She was the daughter of Robert Whitacre. Mr. Whitacre ran a dray. She married Milan York, the son of H. H. York, a prominent citizen in the early history of Stewardson.

As a wedding present the parents of the couple provided the building material for the brick house at 214 N. Spruce. The house was built in 1895. She and her husband left Stewardson in 1913 and went to East St. Louis. He died in 1963. Mrs. York and her daughter, Jessie moved back to Stewardson in 1967.

She states that at first the town was called Illinois Town and then a Mr. Sewardson gave some land for settlers and it was named Stewardson in 1874.

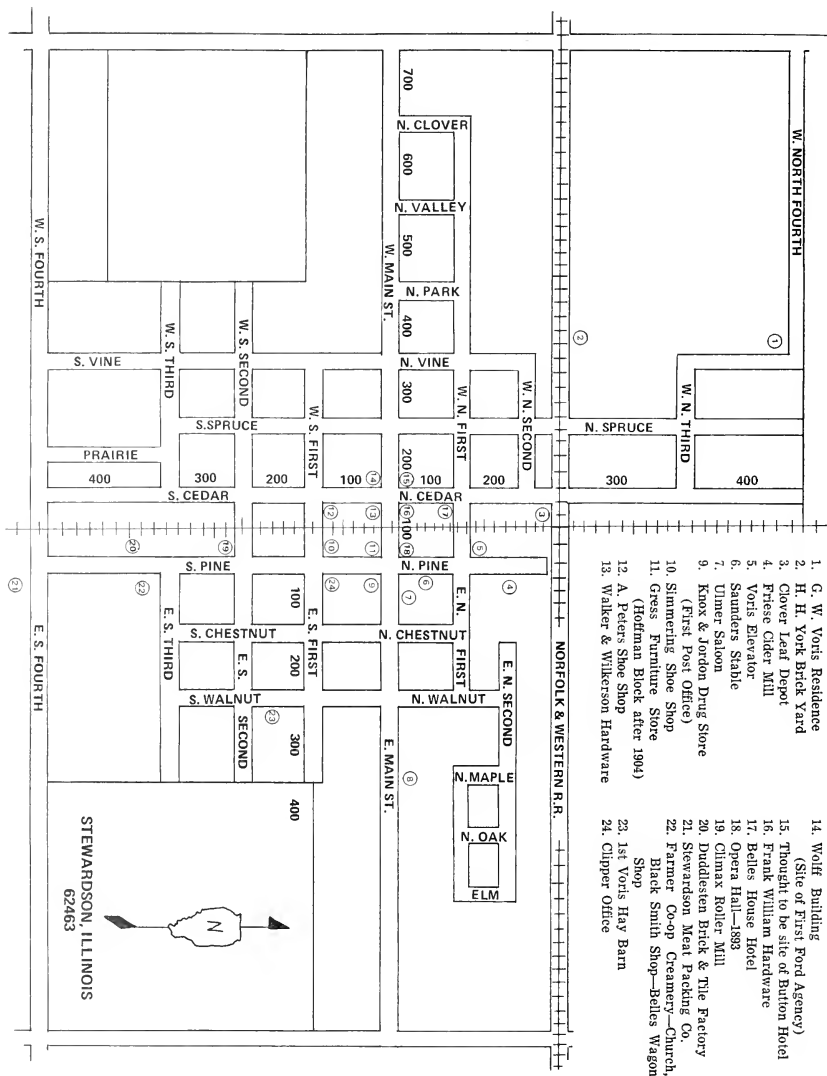


This picture of Mrs. Dora York and her son, Forrest, was taken in 1897.



Home of Mrs. Dora York's parents at the corner of Spruce and North First, 202 North Spruce. The home belonging to Noah Tabbert is at this site now. The picture was taken in 1895. In the picture, from left to right: Robert Whitacre, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitacre, Sr.

## Plat of Early Stewardson





**THE WILLIAM STEWARDSON, JR. FAMILY**—Seated, left to right, Nancy M. Stewardson, 1829 - 1911; Ella Stewardson, 1872 - 1920; William Stewardson,

Jr., 1822 - 1894.

Standing, left to right, John D. Stewardson, 1864 - 1927; Isabella Stewardson, 1855 - 1937; Jennie Stewardson, 1857 -

1897; Elizabeth Ann Stewardson, 1859 - 1882; Anna M. Stewardson, 1867 - 1923; William N. Stewardson, 1865 - 1926.

William Stewardson was the son of William and Mary Nicholson Stewardson of Westmoreland County, England. He was born on February 24, 1828, and came to America with his father in 1842 and settled in Stark County, Ohio. The Stewardson family moved to Pulaski County, Indiana, in 1844 and to Shelbyville Township of Shelby County, Illinois in 1845. Mr. Stewardson married Nancy M. Douthit, the daughter of John and Margaret Douthit, on November 26, 1851.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stewardson, II moved to a farm in Richland Township on Section 19, soon after their marriage. This is approximately at the same loca-

tion as the present day William Pikes farm. The Stewardson family lived in a long, ranch type, comfortable and commodious house with large fireplaces on either end. This home was known as "Belle View." They were the parents of Mary, Sarah, Isabelle, Jane, Elizabeth, William N., Anna M., John D. and Ellen Stewardson.

The Stewardson family enterprise, both in England and America, was sheep raising. Mr. William Stewardson, II owned several thousand sheep that grazed over his holdings in Prairie and Richland Townships. The center of his sheep industry in Prairie Township was an old herders shack in a hedge

grove located approximately a half mile west of the Stewardson Cemetery. During the early years of the Village, Mr. Stewardson built holding pens for his sheep on the south-east corner of South Spruce and West Main Street and also on the north-east corner of South Cedar and South First Street. It is believed that he owned approximately three thousand acres in Prairie Township at the peak of his prosperity. He donated twenty acres of this land to form the nucleus of a Village that was platted on January 10, 1874. This original twenty acres now lies within the boundaries of North First; South First; Walnut Street on the east and Vine Street on the west.

## Stewardson's Oldest Men



Mr. R. A. Peters

The Centennial Book is dedicated to our oldest citizen, Mrs. Dora York, who was born here in July 1872, one and one-half years before Stewardson was chartered as a Village of the State of Illinois.

Since we are honoring our oldest lady citizen, we felt we should give recognition to the oldest man in our com-

munity. The oldest living man, who was born in Stewardson, and still lives here is Mr. R. A. Peters. Mr. Walter Wascher is the oldest man living in Prairie Township.

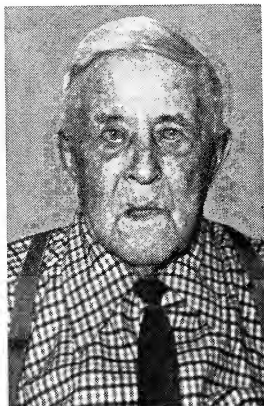
R. A. Peters, son of Albert and Loretta Peters, was born in Stewardson on December 23, 1883, the eldest of a family of five. Mr. R. A. Peters is the oldest living, and perhaps one of the more active, male citizens, to be born in the Village of Stewardson.

Mr. Peters graduated from the Stewardson High School in 1903. He taught in some of the local schools after attending Eastern Illinois Teachers College. Mr. Peters worked in the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Stewardson, the Citizens Savings and Loan Association, and conducted a General Insurance business. He served as Police Magistrate and Township Clerk.

Mr. Peters married Lora May Robison in 1911. He was a partner with his father-in-law, T. N. Robison, in the Drug Store business in Stewardson for several years and then operated the store, as sole owner, until 1939. It was known as the Quality Drug, Book and Jewelry Store.

Mr. Peters returned to Stewardson in 1966, after working in the State Bank of Chrisman for twenty-two years.

He served as secretary of the Stewardson Commercial Club from 1917 to 1922. Mr. Peters is an active member of the United Methodist Church and the Stewardson Lions Club.



Mr. Walter Wascher

Mr. Walter Wascher who lives on a farm northwest of Stewardson was born Sept. 23, 1882 near Champaign, Ill. He lived near Strasburg for awhile and then in 1911 he moved to the farm where he lives now with his son, Walter Wascher, Jr.

He is shown in the picture of the new trucks in this book as one of the purchasers of one of the trucks and he says that they hauled the first loads of bulk milk to a plant in Shelbyville, Ill.

Along with operating his farm Mr. Wascher was active in community activities, politics and the Lutheran Church.

### Mr. Roy Baker

Roy Baker was born in Sigel Township Jan. 14, 1882. When he was still a baby his parents moved to Stewardson and lived here for about five years. They moved about four miles south east of Stewardson where he has lived since then.



Mr. R. A. Peters' Drug Store with Charlie Fromle, a jeweler, to the left, and Mr. Peters to the right.

## Then 'til Now

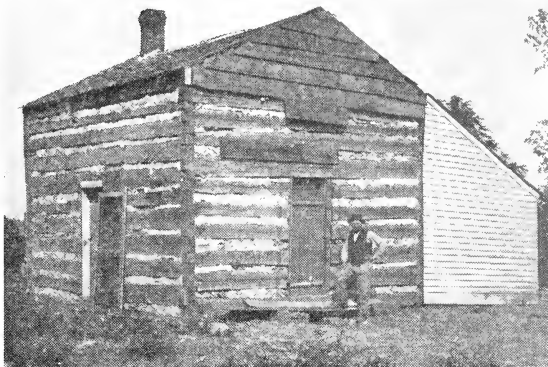
The southeastern part of Shelby County was one of the last areas to be settled. Prairie Township was a wet, swampy land covered with prairie grass as high as a horse and rider and as thick as quills on a porcupine's back. Willow sprouts were intermingled with prairie grass and an occasional cottonwood dotted the landscape. The township was only slightly wooded in the northwestern and southeastern sections with a grove of trees in Section 30 near Brush Creek, and two small groves in Wolf Creek. Undoubtedly, the few settlers that were foolhardy enough to venture into the jungle of prairie grass were quickly chased out by the green fly and the bluetail fly, if they did not succumb to the rattlesnake and malaria.

A few courageous Englishmen slowly drifted into the township along its timbered edges. David and Mary Keller of Tennessee were the first known Caucasians to settle in Prairie Township. They settled on the north side of Rattlesnake Creek on Section 13 during the year of 1835. Mr. and Mrs. Keller were soon followed by other stalwart Englishmen including George Reams, William Leach, George Rouse, Thomas McKibben, Preston Ramsey, William Colston, Jessie Welton, John Brown, Squire Houtchin, and others. The vast interior was left vacant with a majority of men doubting the township would ever be settled except on the timbered fringe.

Sometimes the settlers seemed to cluster in pockets that resembled small communities. One of these settlements was located north of Rattlesnake Creek and east of the present homes of Jessie Keller and Arlyn McCormick. David's son, George Keller, later lived in the original homestead and completed the pattern that produced the name of the settlement. There was a total of eight known houses in Georgetown with five of the houses located south of the road in Section 13, and three houses north of the road in Section 12. The Carters', the Kellers', and the Davises' are the only names that still echo down through the years while the other five Georges have long been forgotten.

It was thought that a sod that could not be broken, a land that could not be drained, could not be farmed. The early settler had only a crude wooden plow tipped with a piece of iron that could not unlock the treasures of the new fertile prairie. But settlers came, fought, and won against the Prairie.

Frank Shumard, followed by his brother, George Shumard, and another



This log cabin was located north of Georgetown. George Shumard moved to this early farm home in the early 1870's.

man Lilly, came to Prairie Township in 1855 and were soon followed by thrifty, disciplined, hardworking, unyielding Germans during the 1860's and 1870's. Mr. Shumard began improvements in 1855 on Section 3, approximately one-half mile south of the old packing plant, near the future Wabash right of way. His brother, George, lived approximately one-fourth of a mile north, or approximately one-half of a mile west, of Roy Harrington's house. Mr. Lilly settled high on a hill west of Stewardson on Section 33 behind the present day home of Russell Moran. According to the history of Shelby and Moultrie Counties of 1873 to 1881, the first Germans came to Prairie Township in 1862. These first German families included John Rosine, William Wangaline, G. Bolt, John Kuster, J. Kassang, and J. C. Casting.

Most of the early homes appeared to be built on the furthestmost point from any road as if almost by design; but there were no roads present, and the early settlers simply looked for the best-looking building sites without thought to future roads. The "dugout" home was a rather commonplace sight on the prairie. Christian Fluga, a native of Germany, settled in Prairie Township in 1872, just north of Stewardson, on the present-day Mode road. He dug a hole and covered it with willows. There his family lived until he could build a

house. Mr. Fritz and Mr. Zalman built sod-covered houses for their families. The settlers near the timber built log cabins while most of the early settlers built frame houses sided with slabs of rough sawed lumber.

Very early travel was done by following the timbered fringe, because there were no roads across the prairie. The first limited travel across the prairie was at night to avoid the swarms of green flies and other pests. In those early years, many settlers stopped at the home of Arch Beals to spend the night and to ask the way to Shelbyville. Mr. Beals lived east of the Village of Stewardson along the present-day Route 32, just south of the Clover-leaf tracks. It is reported that Mr. Beals plowed a furrow from his house to Shelbyville so the travelers could find their way.

Two stagecoach roads did pass through the general area during the early and mid-nineteenth century. One stage route ran roughly from Springfield, Illinois, to Effingham, Illinois, passing over the corner of Oscar Milchman's farm and between Shelby Thompson's house and Wolf Creek. There was a deep waterhole in Wolf Creek near Shelby's where the wanderers stopped to water their horses. The road continued in a generally northwesterly direction to Williamsburg; passing near the present site of New Mode.

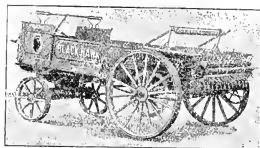
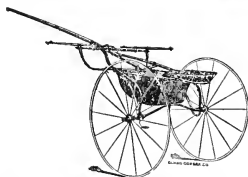
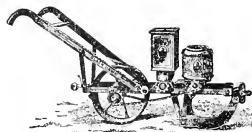
South by southeast of Mode

the tracks of the old road can still be faintly seen as it winds its way around a timbered hill. The hill is now covered with brown leaves and prostrate tombstones. The name of "Sutt" and "Died" 1851" are still legible on one of these stones. Legend states a stagecoach driver was shot in an ambush by highwaymen at the base of the hill and buried in the old cemetery during the latter 1840's or early 1850's. The U.S. Mail was carried over state roads such as this one. Frequently, these roads were so rough that the mail was carried in a box on an axle between two wheels. It was often necessary to use four to six horses to drag this contraption through the mud. This was certainly a far cry from our seventy-mile-an-hour Interstate.

The waterways, no matter how small, also served as highways for the early travelers. No story of early Prairie Township would be complete without the account of one man who used Wolf Creek as a guide for his travel. His journey suddenly ended with a bullet hole in his skull in a grove of trees southwest of Stewardson, near the old Wolf Creek church yard, in Section 8. It is thought he met his death in the early part of 1838-1839, and his clothed skeleton was found the following year. Apparently, the man had come from Ohio to look for land. The murderers ripped off his money belt, but overlooked a cash-laden wallet in his pocket. His clothes were later identified by his wife. The remains of the unknown man were buried near where he was found, giving the surrounding area the lasting name of "Dead Man's Grove."

Early life on the prairie was impossible; hardships were numerous; and a family's energy was consumed in staying alive. But the settlers were a defiant band who refused to admit defeat. The stubborn German would not accept the belief that the sod could not be broken. He brought his spade to replace the plow, and apparently spaded a place to plant a small crop. The more fortunate had a plow known as a "prairie breaker," which was much like a previously described plow except it was of a strong, massive wooden frame that could withstand great stress. Apparently, it was equipped with a steel shear and wheels on the front to regulate the plow depth. The early farmer tamed the prairie, plowing through sod and willow, with this improvement pulled by six oxen.

Livestock roamed at will and munched on the nutritious prairie grass.



These three items were shown in ads in a farmer's ready reference book published in 1907. The book was distributed by D. M. Sechler Carriage Company, Moline, Illinois.

The top one was a Black Hawk Drill, with a fertilizer attachment.

The second picture was listed under the caption, "Carts for all Purposes", as a "Pole Cart."

The third picture was a Black Hawk Manure Spreader with these selling points listed: lightest draft, least complication, no cogs or opinions, simple to operate, greatest range of feed, 3 to 70 loads per acre.

Frank Anderson's wife, as a young girl, used to ride as far as a watering hole west of Leo Rincker's house every evening, looking for their cattle. Sometimes, the cattle would range as far west as Mode. The coyote and timber wolf would venture onto the prairie at night, preying on the young domesticated animals. Frank Shumard was only one of the settlers that lost hosts to these hungry beasts. Drought, chinch bugs, cholera, malaria, and other diseases only added to the early settlers' woes.

Settlers found the prairie to be fertile, and the population of Prairie Township grew to the unbelievable number of 1,218 by the 1870 census. Already rum-

ors of a possible railroad were being circulated, and perhaps some of the survey work had been completed by 1869. The people of Prairie were eager for a source of transportation for their agricultural products and joined with the townships of Windsor and Richland to contribute \$200,000 as an inducement to the Northern Cross Railroad to build tracks south from Bement, Illinois. Finally, the Chicago and Paducah branch of the Great Western was completed through Moultrie and Shelby Counties in 1873 and 1874. Depots were soon completed in Shelby County at Windsor, Strasburg, Stewardson, and Herborn, Illinois, in 1878.

With the coming of the railroad, the people of Prairie Township felt it would be beneficial to have a local commercial center. The major problem seemed to be the location of the new community. Two gentlemen from Prairie Township and one from Richland Township, with large land holdings in Prairie, were the major contenders to provide the site. Apparently, Mr. Rincker and Mr. Shumard were the two strongest contenders with each man making very liberal propositions. A convention was scheduled in Prairie Township so the proposals could be placed before the voters. But, alas, both men had equal support, throwing the convention into a deadlock. Finally, one of the major contenders threw his support to Mr. Stewartson, and a town sprung up where his sheep had previously grazed.

Mr. William Stewartson donated the land for the original town that was platted by County Surveyor, Elias Smith, on January 10, 1874. The original town encompassed the land bound by North First Street, South First Street, Walnut Street, and Vine Street, with possibly some of the outlying area. The pride of the town, the old Chicago and Paducah Railroad, ran from north to south through the center of the village.

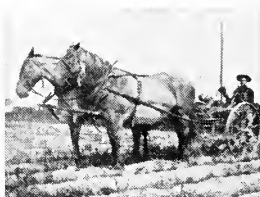
No sooner had one controversy been settled when another one started. Most of the early settlers were either English or German. The Germans lived in the northern part of the township while most of the English, with a few German Families, settled in the southern part of the township. Of course, the Germans, fond of their ancestral home, referred to the new town as "Metz" after Metz, Germany. The English preferred to name it after the town's founder and referred to the town as "Stewartson."

The town was incorporated on Sep

tember 30, 1874, as the Village of Stewardson. It was not until June 25, 1883, that the postoffice was changed to "Stewardson." By the start of 1875, the new town had grown to the size of "Old Mode" with twenty-five inhabitants. However, unlike Mode, the town grew rapidly to a population of 500 people in 1878 and 750 by 1887. For many years, the town continued to be known by its official name of Stewardson, and by the name of Metz. Mail was addressed to both Metz and Stewardson and still found its way to the correct destination.

The years of 1874 - 1879 were times of rapid expansion with people moving in and new businesses starting. In fact, the town had such a bright future that "Big John" Tull, the lumberman, was sure that it would be a county seat in five years, governing a new county made up of Prairie Township and parts of Cumberland and Effingham Counties. George Washington Voris built his scale office, the first building with a roof on it, near the present site of the Opera Hall. The scale house faced North Pine Street on the east. Mr. Voris was quickly followed by Shafter, Turner and Baldwin, Fagan and Pfleger, Jacob Leader, Noah Hosteter, and Knox and Jordan. Shafer, Turner, and Baldwin opened the next business house and stocked it with hardware. William Pfleger followed almost immediately with a store stocked with general merchandise. Jacob Leader built his "American Hotel" and ran it successfully until his death. Apparently, his death occurred before 1878. Knox and Jordan built a drug store on the north side of East Main Street and received quick competition with a drug store run by Press Bennett. Apparently, the drug business was lucrative in those days or man's ambitions were not great. The June 22, 1878, issue of the "Stewardson Enterprise" stated that both Mr. Bennett and Mr. Jordan soon retired after making a quick fortune. Mr. Knox remained in business for several years and added several facets to his business, including a postoffice, a doctor's office, real estate, and a variety of merchandise.

Mr. William Pfleger also built his "Stewardson House" hotel in about 1874 and was the landlord for approximately four years. William Pfleger's hotel was home to many of the single men who came to Stewardson to seek their fortune in the years of 1874 and 1875. Mr. T. N. Robinson lived with this group of men while he established his drug business on South Pine Street. The single young men of Stewardson House were



This is a picture of a farmer cultivating his corn with the up-to-date method for that time. This picture was probably taken in the late 20's or early 30's. The farmers didn't have hybrid seeds and fertilizers to help grow bounteous crops like they raise now.

a jovial, fun-loving crew who frequently enjoyed playing practical jokes on one another. T. N. Robinson was the recipient of one of these jokes when he returned late one evening, after court-ing, as the story goes, and was surprised with an overturned bucket of water as he opened the door to his room. Needless to say, Tom was all wet.

Needs for general merchandise were met by such firms as York and Mautz, Henry H. Wolf, Tull and Hoese, H. R. Keller, and others. Appetites for fresh pork were fed through the butcher shops of J. F. Kull and Wilson and Conroy. No doubt much of this fresh pork came from the new square-framed packing plant built by the partnership of F. X. Gress and William Steidle.

Mr. Gress also manufactured furniture for the increasing numbers of homes and assisted in times of bereavement, supplying handmade coffins, flowers, and serving as the village undertaker. Prior to Mr. Gress, Mr. Noah Hosteter had the distinction of being the first undertaker in the village.

Scott Lowery, J. W. Ricketts, R. Walker and Sons, and A. D. Williams provided much of the muscle and made the town a reality. They were the early carpenters that built the business houses, the homes, and the barns. Each stated that satisfaction was guaranteed. R. Walker and Sons agreed to do plain and fancy woodwork for those who were interested in frills. Of course, Hawbeck and Hawyer finished off the interiors of these buildings since they were considered to be the best plasterers and paperhangers (and probably the only ones) in town. A. D. Williams also made another contribution to the Village in the form of the future Stewardson wit and businessman,



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Roley moved to this log cabin soon after he returned from the Civil War. Mrs. Clarence Brandt now lives on the site of the old Roley homestead. Mr. Samuel Roley was born in Shelby County during the year of 1842.

his son, Frank Williams.

Women of early Stewardson were kept happy and beautiful by the services of William Jordan, a hairdresser, on the west side of the C&P Tracks. They were further adorned by the headgear sold by Mrs. C. A. Morman and Aunt Polly McIver in their millinery shops. Mr. Jordan, John Hebel, and Charlie Reynolds met the grooming needs of the men. It would seem that Charlie had an advantage over his competition since he was located in Mr. A. Peters' Shoe Shop. Mr. Peters was Stewardson's first shoemaker. In those days the cobbler was truly a boot and shoemaker.

Drs. Knox, B. B. Bacon, and Worley treated the ill and attended to childbirth in Stewardson during the 1870's and early 1880's. They were certainly kept busy with the malaria and typhoid fever epidemics of 1878, as well as relieving the pain of a large number of Stewardson's citizens who were afflicted with boils that year.

Anyone running afoul of the law sought the services of Stewardson's young attorney, W. B. Townsend, to defend them in the court of Stewardson's Justice of the Peace, T. A. Curry. Mr. Townsend came to Stewardson from Canada, via Sullivan, in 1878, and continued to practice through the 1880's. His office was in the Rickett's building. In later years Chris Wilson and H. H. York also served as legal counselors.

The parched lips of the German community were moistened by H. Martin, the proprietor of the German Saloon. Apparently, Mr. Reeder of the Parlor Saloon attended to the English counter-

part. It was surmised that Joel Shelton was agreeable to serve anyone who was thirsty in his saloon on South Pine Street.

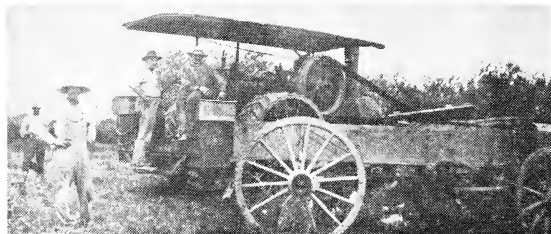
Stewardson was growing, but not all of the movement was into town. One old timer has very aptly said, "Some blew in and some blew out, with no one knowing where they came from or where they went." Hiran Graybill stood ready to assist those "who blew out" with his "satisfaction guaranteed" auctioneer services. Mr. Graybill was prepared to cry a sale in either English or German.

Mr. Henry Dunzing put Stewardson on wheels with wagons and carriages manufactured in his shop on East Main Street; and the Village smithy, George Zalman, kept them rolling. In addition to Mr. Zalman, Mr. McDaniel and Sons opened a blacksmith shop in 1878 and were followed a few years later by Emanuel Smith. The blacksmith and wagon maker were very important people in Stewardson and commanded positions of respect and leadership.

But not all of the activity was work. A driving, striving, thriving town also needed rest and entertainment. Entertained they were by the Stewardson Brass Band under the direction of Mr. Huffer in 1878 and the Stewardson Dramatics Club. Charlie Tull was sure "... Stewardson Brass Band will ... soon be able to compete with, if not excel, the best bands in the state." The Stewardson Dramatics Club stood ready to entertain the town with such plays as "Out in the Street", a beautiful temperance drama. The people also entertained themselves with spelling matches, shooting matches, and public speakers.

In addition to entertainment, the citizens of Stewardson also had a need to know. This need was met by the Stewardson Enterprise in 1878. The Enterprise was later followed by the Stewardson Clipper organized by Mr. Zip Wilson and William Fagan in 1887. These newspapers printed such newsy items as: "Stewardson has eight widows, nine grass widows, fourteen old maids, seven old bachelors, five widowers, and they all want to marry." It was only through these publications that people learned that "Mrs. Brunk's cow died last night." The newspaper business in Stewardson grew and faltered and grew again, keeping pace with the growth of Stewardson and surviving with an excellent publication to the present date.

A spurt of growth had started again by the mid 1880's with new housing additions being constructed, monstrous



Steam Engines like this were used to furnish power for operating threshing machines, ensilage cutters, etc. The wooden wheeled wagon was used to haul coal to be used for fuel to develop the steam needed to operate the engine. Water had to be hauled to the steam engine, too. Usually the farmers had to furnish the coal needed for his threshing job.

From left to right: Henry Zalman, Mrs. Glen Giesler's grandfather; Edward Zalman, Louis Zalman, and Fred Zalman.

haybarns being built, and new businesses moving in. No doubt, this growth was vitalized by the crossing of the Wabash Railroad with another set of tracks running from the east to the west and finally called the Cloverleaf. This second set of tracks was completed in 1883 and widened to a standard gauge rail in 1889. Stewardson indeed was now a center of commerce and became well known to the drummers selling their wares. Salesmen came to Stewardson by rail and took advantage of the many livery services to carry their wares to the surrounding villages. In those days, Stewardson was known to these early drummers for its good hotel accommodations, its good food, and some say for its rich poker games.

George Voris kept crews of men busy with his expanding grain and hay business, subdivisions, and syrup production at Sugarville. In 1884, D. M. Duddleston revolutionized the brick and tile industry by keeping three brick kilns burning continuously, supplying bricks not only for Stewardson, but shipping large quantities by rail. Hoop poles were in great demand and kept Leffler's Hoop-Pole Shop in the southern part of town continually humming. The mainstay to Stewardson's bulging economy and growth was agriculture. Broomcorn was queen, and timothy was king. The milling industry continued to hum, day and night, under the direction of Mr. Swingle. The physical size of the mill and its capacity to produce were greatly increased with a large expansion program by its new owner, Mr. Singer, in 1894.

Through the 1890's and early 1900's,

Stewardson continued to expand and grow with its population surpassing a thousand people around 1900. In 1893, the large Opera Hall was constructed and has since served as a famous landmark. The newly organized Stewardson National Bank of 1892 occupied the front quarters of the downstairs portion of the building, while Mr. Voris operated his grain business out of an office in the rear of the building. A stage erected in one of the rooms on the second floor served as home base for the Eclipse Comedy Company, and the Stewardson Dramatics Company, and was the center of Stewardson's entertainment in the way of plays and political speakers.

In 1902 the Stewardson Telephone Company was formed and an old resident, F. X. Gress died in approximately the same year. A few short years later, his son-in-law, Dr. Hoffman, started one of the biggest building projects ever undertaken in Stewardson. The newly formed F&M Bank was the first business to move into the Hoffman Block Building in 1909. A new, modern brick school was also constructed in 1909.

All the taverns closed when the town was voted dry in 1910. In 1911 the old village kerosene street lamps were replaced with an electric lighting system.

Frank Williams was the herald of a new era as he puffed down the street in his Stanley Steamer. The creation of Gus and Gaston Chevrolet went on sale in the new Frede Agency, and C. A. Mietzner featured the "Leaping Lizzy" in his new Ford Agency on South Cedar. Little did anyone realize that the new automobile would cause the town to de-



cline.

Stewardson was host to a free chautauqua in 1922 that was acclaimed throughout the state as being one of the finest in its day. The Liberty Theater entertained Stewardson with its silent pictures; and a man called "Piedmont" terrorized the town during 1922 in true Wild West fashion. Also during the early 20's, one of Stewardson's boys rode into fame, or more appropriately into a building, on the old hand pumper. Mr. Milchman built a number of new brick business houses, next to the Opera Hall, in 1925, to replace the wooden structures destroyed by fire a few years earlier. In 1926 or 1927 Mr. F. F. Yahey bought the old meat packing plant and used trucks for the first time to sell meat. The old Wabash combined its passenger train and freight trains into a train of two passenger cars and about one-half-a-dozen freight cars. Suddenly, the bank closed in 1928, the broomcorn factory burned, and the Great Depression hit with full force.

During the War years in the 1940's, the local Red Cross Chapter rolled bandages and everyone flattened tin cans to help the war effort. Mr. Yahey reopened the packing house and was butchering fifty head of cattle a day, and four hundred head of hogs a week at the peak of production. In 1948, the chilling cry rang out, "Stewardson is burning!" The famous old Block



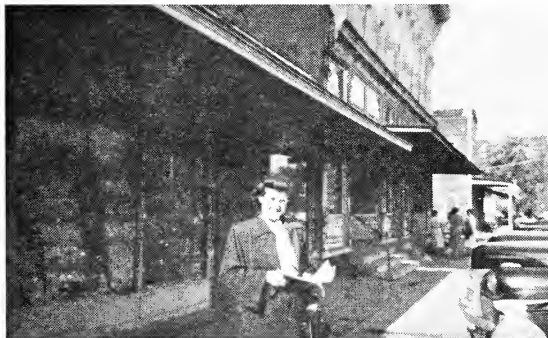
This is a picture of some local women doing volunteer Red Cross work during the second World War. Left to right, seated: Regina Moomaw, Florence (Schultz) Harrington, Marie Bruns, Marilyn (Steagall) Allsop, Marie (Foustie) Tate, Eva (Rothrock) Brown, Reva Elliott, Mrs. T. L. Dunagan, Delores Bruns.

Standing, left to right: Margaret Slifer, Mrs. Anna Friese, Isabelle Bruns, Louann (Engel) Boldt, Mrs. Paul Yahey.

Building was reduced to smoldering rubble. In 1949 the old packing house closed for the last time. The school system was consolidated, and readin' writin', 'rithmetic, and the old country school passed into history. They were

replaced with a new modern school in 1950. An old landmark burned in 1953, and Stewardson missed the spiraling white steeple of the Lutheran Church. The Municipal Water System was installed in 1956, and Stewardson soon started dialing their numbers rather than calling Central. A Gas System was installed by Central Illinois Public Service Company in 1964, and a new grade school was built near the Stewardson-Strasburg High School in 1967. The town slowly started to grow during the 1960's with a new housing development and new businesses moving into the Village.

Today, Stewardson has a large new housing addition; a construction company; a growing packing plant; two auto dealers; a large tractor dealership; an awning company; a cafe; hardware store; salvage store; barber shop; beauty shops; a fabric shop; bank; a gas station; two grocery stores; a feed store; a large elevator company; a fertilizer plant; lumber yard; several smaller businesses; and four churches. Stewardson now has its homecoming, parades, and Fourth of July fireworks. Once again, in 1970, Stewardson surpassed the old census of 750 lively people. The words of I. W. Long are just as appropriate today as they were in 1887: "Stewardson is a 'boomin', and I am here to boom along with her."



Engel's Hardware Store on Main Street in 1949. You can see the wallpaper display in the window and a reflection of the brick building at the southeast corner of Main and Cedar Streets. In the background is the two story Weber Store building.

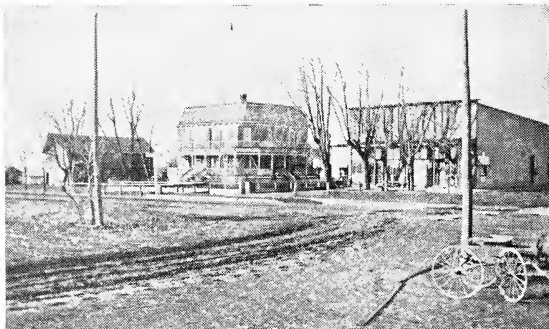
In front is Lucille (Stansfield) Huffmaster and in front of the restaurant are Myrtle Homsey, a music teacher, Anna Ruth Smith, Home Ec teacher and Hazel Roberts, a Science teacher.

A 1947 Ford is parked to the right.

## Rincker Siding

### The Herborn Story

Herborn, is located in Section 22, Prairie Township, approximately 3 miles north of Stewardson on land previously owned by Mr. H. W. Rincker. The C&P Railroad (Wabash) agreed to put in a switch at the present location of Herborn in compensation to Mr. Rincker in exchange for a right of way through his land. The railroad was built through Prairie Twp. in 1873 and 1874. Until 1878 this switch in the middle of the prairie was known as "Rincker Siding" and "Rincker Station". The old C&P Railroad built a Depot at Rincker station in mid 1878. A post office was established in the fall of 1878 under the name of Herborn after Mr. Rincker's home in Germany. It is reported that Mr. Rincker built a grain warehouse, a blacksmith shop, and one dwelling. F. M. Donnelly was the blacksmith and



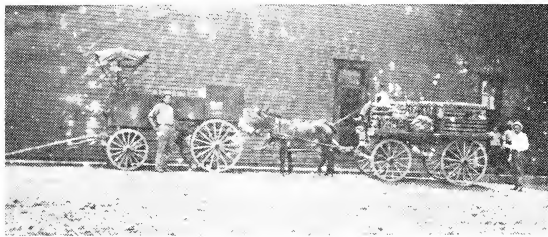
Uptown Herborn — Falk's Store, Residence and Barn.

postmaster in early Herborn while Mr. T. J. Cantwell served as deputy post-

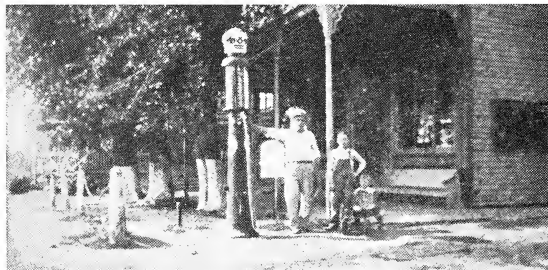
master. Mr. Cantwell also ran the General Store and bought grain. Mr. Hunt and Mr. Galt started manufacturing tile in 1881 and for a short period of time it appeared that Herborn might become a sizable town.

John W. Falk was one of the better known business men in Herborn of old. Mr. Falk was born in Germany on 9-7-1856 and came to Chicago with his parents in 1858 and moved to Prairie Township about 1863. Mr. Falk moved to Stewardson in 1877 and ran a general merchandise store for one year. He married Anna Giesler in 1878 and returned to the farm. He continued in farming for 11 years until he opened a general merchantile business in Herborn, Ill., during the year of 1889. Within a short time, he became a partner in the tile factory and a few years later added a dealership in grain to his business. As of 1891, the Herborn Tile Manufacturing Co. continued under the partnership of John W. Falk, his brother, Joseph Falk and A. T. Weber. Mr. Falk also served as postmaster, express and freight agent, and trustee of the Herborn school. Mr. John Falk, son, wife, and Mr. and Mrs. John Elmer Falk, assumed responsibility for the general store in 1920. This store burned in 1931. The store was rebuilt and Elmer continued to operate it until 1933.

The old store building was moved to Sewardson and was made into a private residence and Herborn was without a store until Rufus VonBehren rebuilt in 1945. The store con-



Picture taken along the side of the Herborn Store with Elmer Falk standing beside the huckster wagon to the left.

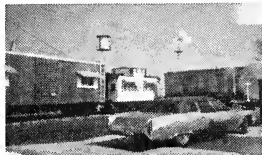


Herborn Store with the Standard Oil Gasoline Pump. Left to right, Elmer Falk and sons, John and Tommy.

tinued in operation until 1970. The old store burned in 1972.

The founder of Herborn, Ill., Heinrich Wilhelm Rincker, was born June 25, 1818, in Herborn, Nassau, Germany. He was a graduate of the University at Karlsruhe, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Rincker then came to America and settled in Chicago in 1846. Heinrich Wilhelm Rincker was a bell maker by trade and opened a Bell and Brass foundry on Canal St. near Adams St. in Chicago. The first Mrs. Rincker died during the 1849 cholera epidemic and Mr. Rincker remarried to Anna Margareta Gans. The Rincker family, after the death of a daughter in 1856, moved to Fort Wayne, Ind. so that Mr. Rincker could study the ministry. The family then moved to Prairie Township, Shelby County, Ill. in 1864 and settled on 600 acres of virgin prairie land on section 23. In addition to founding the town of Herborn, Mr. Rincker started Lutheran Congregations in Strasburg, Shelbyville, Stew-

ardson, and Sigel. Mr. Rincker returned to his old trade of Bell maker and started a foundry in Sigel, Ill. Heinrich Rincker died in Herborn, Ill. on 11-27-1889. His wife Anna Margareta Gans Rincker died in Herborn, Ill. on 3-1-1896. Mr. Rincker owned as much as 800 to 1,000 acres in Prairie Township.



**JOHN FALK'S RAILROAD CENTER  
IN HERBORN**

John Falk, the owner of the Depot Stores in Stewardson and Effingham, has this very unique residence in Her-

born. To the left is a box car that John has made into a living room. The caboose was the first one to be moved here and it had complete living quarters in it. To the right of the caboose is a refrigerator car that has also been made into living quarters.

All three of these have antique items in them along with being modern and comfortable living quarters. Many of the items are from the early railroad days, such as stoves, chairs, bunks, etc.

To the right is a tank car that is used for water storage. In the background you can see a windmill that pumps water for their use and a water tower, reminiscent of the days of the use of steam engines on the trains.

All four of these cars are setting on standard railroad rails.

On the tower, John has painted this sign—"Herborn" "population 28 and still growing."

## Prairie Township During The Civil War

During the Civil War period, there was one issue that everyone approached with a united front. That issue was taxes. For the first time, an income tax of 5% was levied on all incomes over \$600. In assessing this tax against farmers, members of the family over five years old were each counted as annually consuming \$50 of the products of the farm. This was counted as income. A stamp tax was also levied on all legal transactions. Stamps were also required on all drugs and medicines sold in bottles, as well as on keg beer and tobacco. All merchants, professional people, blacksmiths, and livestock breeders were required to pay a \$10 annual tax. Revenues from all sources amounted to about \$200,000 from Shelby County.

Prairie township was not left untouched by the Civil War in other ways. A number of the young men were directly involved in the conflict, as well as the home-folks experiencing some effects of the war. The feelings of Prairie Township were also divided.

During the election of 1864, the citizens of the precinct were assembled at

the polling place, a quarter mile west of the present home of Dean Kessler. A group of pro-slavery men from near the Little Wabash River suddenly rode in and, at gun-point, prevented the people from voting. Apparently a number of fist fights and bloody noses had already occurred when two Union soldiers, home on leave, came to vote. In spite of the pro-southerners' threat, the two soldiers drew their guns and announced they were coming in. The pro-slavery men were perceptive enough to recognize that the soldiers were serious in their intent. They quickly mounted their horses and rode off.

Nor was this the only time the band of rowdies expressed their southern leanings. The same group tied up a man east of town and were prepared to kill him, because he refused to salute a picture of Jeff Davis, the Confederate president. Fortunately, another man had just joined the group and casually asked if anyone knew anything about the troop of soldiers just beyond the distant hill. The pro-slavery men leaped to their horses and rode off leaving the man tied, but alive. Of course, the soldiers never came.

There was a band of guerrillas operating in this general area that stole horses during the Civil War and sold

them to the Government Depot in Granite City, Illinois. They had a string of hide-outs between Toledo, Illinois and Granite City. One of these hide-outs was in the deep woods near the Spain Cemetery, northeast of Stewardson. These hide-outs were used both as collection points and as places to rest the horses during the day on their westward journey.

Other bands from the south also made at least one raid into Prairie and Richland Townships. The purpose of this raid was for plunder. Mr. William Stewardson was living on the present day Bill Pikeash farm when he received a message from St. Louis that a band of southern marauders were on their way to Prairie Township. They prepared for the raid by hiding their furniture in the barn loft and covering it with huge amounts of loose hay. The Stewardsons either left or hid, the raiders came, they searched, but did not find a thing. The marauders walked over the valuables of the Stewardson family, breaking the door on a seventeenth century grandfather clock. It was the only casualty of the raid.

## Our Sustaining Faith



**Christian Church** on east Main St. Carl Shadwell owns the building now and it is used for a storage room.

### First Christian Church 1860 - 1870

Sometime in the late 1860's or in the early 1870's, families of Arch Beals, Allen Seward, Dan Baker, George Shumard, and others organized a society for devotional purposes and met in their homes for such services. From time to time others joined their society until their group became too large for the homes to accommodate their meetings. The Baptist Church of the community opened its doors and permitted them to use that church for meetings. An Evangelistic tent meeting was held, resulting in additions to their membership. Seeing the need of a church, the southwest corner of lot 8, block 1, was purchased from Emanuel and Rachel Smith, who executed a warranty deed conveying the land to Nathan Beals, Isaac Huffer, and Thomas Currey as trustees. A brick church was built on this lot in 1881 with bricks by Lawrence Zerr and Henry York. The church was dedicated and named Christian Church. Rev. Lamb of Charleston was the first pastor. On September 19, 1885, the members elected Dave Robey, Joseph Thomas, and Samson Goff as trustees. In October 1887, a new bell was purchased and hung in the church. November 16, 1912, for a consideration of \$2,000, lots 11 and 12 in block 5 of the original town of Stewardson, Illinois, were purchased from E. E. Herron and Anna M. Herron, husband and wife. The house on the lots then was torn down and a new parsonage was erected. On July 21, 1961, lot 10, block 5 of the village of Stewardson, Illinois was purchased from Tracy



**First Christian Church**

Hoyer. On August 30, 1964, ground breaking ceremonies were held for the erection of a new church. The old church was sold to Carl Shadwell and is used for storage. An item in the Thursday, April 29, 1965, Stewardson Clipper states, "work is progressing on the new Christian Church being built in Stewardson. Beautiful stained glass windows were installed a couple weeks ago and the roof finished Monday. The congregation will soon have a church they can truly be proud of." On October 24, 1965, the church was dedicated in an impressive ceremony.

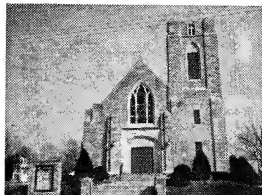
Ministers and elders serving the church through the years have been: Rev. Lamb, their first minister; Elder Edward Zerr, Rev. J. E. Story, Rev. John Jenkins, Rev. Gray, Rev. Martin, Rev. W. S. Hoke, Rev. Kuykendall, Rev. Smith, Rev. Briggs, Rev. Jones, Rev. Cartwright, Rev. David Watts, Rev. W. B. Stine, Rev. Harry Joachim, Rev. David Watts, Rev. C. E. Boswell, Rev. Harry G. Kaye, and Rev. Ron Lake, the present minister.

The membership in the year 1900 numbered 42. It had a flourishing Sunday School of 113. Today its membership is 117 in church, and 70 in the Sunday School. They have a quite active Ladies Aid Society and a young people's group called Christ in Action.

### Trinity Lutheran Church

Early Lutheran settlers came from Chicago during the Civil War and settled around Strasburg, Illinois. Pastor Henry Rincker, a Lutheran pastor from Terre Haute, Indiana was the first preacher, holding services in various home including his own near Herborn, Illinois. More Lutherans came from Ohio and southern Illinois and organized the St. Paul's congregation in Strasburg. In 1868 about nine families who resided quite a distance from that congregation asked for a

dismissal and they, with six other families residing in Prairie Township, organized Trinity Lutheran Congregation near the present village of Stewardson. They bought a church building located west of Kingman for \$300 from the



**Trinity Lutheran Church.**

Swedish Lutherans in 1870. It was moved to Volkman Hill, located about two miles east of the present village of Stewardson, which is now the farm of Fred Beitz. This served as a place of worship for about 25 years. At first, the congregation could not support a pastor alone. Pastor Buszin of Champaign served the congregation for six months. In 1870, Pastor Henry Rincker was chosen as the first regular pastor and served for about two years. From 1872 to 1876, Rev. F. W. Schlechte preached for the congregation every third Sunday, in addition to his regular pastorate at Strasburg. In 1873, Henry Duensing came to help organize the town of Stewardson. Many times when the pastor could not be present, he would conduct the services and read a sermon from an approved sermon book. He and his wife, Minnie nee Friese, were the first couple on the church record of May 1, 1870 to be united in marriage. In 1876 Rev. Schlechte moved to Stewardson and served as resident pastor for seven years, in addition to his four years as vacancy pastor. In 1885 a small parsonage and small stable for the pastor's horse and buggy were completed. The parsonage, with rooms added from time to time, served until the 1940's.

When the church was still in the country, members often walked to church using the railroad most of the way because of bad roads. After the village of Stewardson had developed, it was decided to build a church here. A school had been built in 1882, located at what is now 121 South Walnut. The church was built on a lot donated by Mrs. M. Volkman at a cost of



This is a picture of the first Lutheran Church and school. The parsonage is in the background behind the school. This school building was sold to Phil Peters, when a new school building was built to the south of this one and he moved it to north Pine St. He remodeled it into a home and then later sold it to Karl Lugar who lives there now.

Notice the hitchrack in front and the fence around the school. The hitchrack was needed to tie the horses on Sunday and the fence wasn't only to keep the students on the playground, but to keep the minister's livestock from straying. The school yard was used as a pasture, too.

\$3300, including the bell which is being used in the present church. This church, which seated about 280 people, was dedicated in October 1893. Up until 1897, all the services had been conducted in the German language. In that year English services were begun and were conducted every two weeks. In 1936 German was dropped altogether. In 1945, a \$4000



A picture of the first Lutheran Parsonage, beside the church to the south and to the east of the present parsonage.

project was completed, which included a basement and a furnace, remodeling the interior and installation of a kitchen. In 1951 a new parsonage was built at a cost of \$12,000.

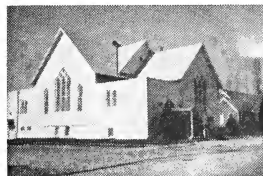
On the evening of January 28, 1953, the entire community felt the loss when a fire swept through and totally destroyed the building and furnishings. Only the official records and the bell were saved. The congregation immediately made plans to rebuild, and on October 31, 1954, at a cost of \$160,000, a beautiful new church, with a capacity of 440, was dedicated.

The Sunday School which was organized in 1908 has classes from nursery to adult Bible class, with an average enrollment of 118. The Ladies Aid was organized on November 12, 1914, and continues to be a very active organization, with Mrs. Eva Schultz as president. There is the Trinity Youth Society for the young people of the church and there is also a Fellowship Club. The choir was officially organized in 1930, and adds much to the services on Sundays, as well as on holidays.

Thirteen pastors have served up to the present time: Rev. Henry Rincker,

1870 - 1871; Rev. F. W. Schlechte 1872-1883; Rev. F. W. Brockman 1884 - 1888; Rev. C. C. Koessel 1888 - 1891; Rev. J. Kollmorgen 1891 - 1896; Rev. Paul Kolb 1896 - 1899; Rev. Carl Schmidt 1899-1903; Rev. H. Beiderwieden 1903 - 1918; Rev. V. M. Keiper 1919 - 1923; Rev. C. Thomas Spitz 1923 - 1930; Rev. T. Dautenhahn 1930 - 1946; Rev. Walter Lieder 1946 - 1957. Rev. George Williams came in 1957 and is the present pastor. It is the largest church in the community with a membership of 412.

#### Stewardson United Methodist



Methodist Church with the Parsonage to the right.

In 1871 E. S. Warmesley began preaching and formed a society in a schoolhouse near "Dead Man's Grove." The members of this class were William Mitchell and family, Michael Strause and family, and Michael Dappert and family. Sabbath School was organized about the same time. In 1873, a church was built within one mile of the Grove, costing \$1,700 and was dedicated by G. E. P. Baldwin, T. S. Johnson, P. E. ——— with the following trustees: Michael Srouse, William Mitchell, James Patrick, Michael Dappert, and John Silvers. The first Methodist Episcopal Society in Stewardson was organized by F. J. W. Laoham in September 24, 1875. The church built by the society near Dead Man's Grove was moved to Stewardson and set on lots 11 and 12, block 17, corner of South Cedar and South Second Street, the location of the present United Methodist Church, in 1877. At this time, the Society organized near Dead Man's Grove merged with the Stewardson membership and became one society under the name of Stewardson Methodist Episcopal Church. On Sunday, February 14, 1879, the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church met and organized a Sunday School electing the following officers: Superintendent, C. H. Sloan; Assistant Superintendent, J. A. Tull;



An early picture of the Methodist Church with the parsonage to the North of it. This was taken about 1909.

Secretary-Treasurer, H. Martin; Librarian, R. W. Martin. The members also named a committee to organize classes, permitting each class to choose its own teacher.

This building served the Methodists in the village of Stewardson until the spring of 1905. The building was sold to the congregation of the Free Methodist Church of Stewardson and moved to lots 5 and 6, block 8, of C. Weeds subdivision across from the Stewardson Park.

Plans for a new church were begun during the pastorate of Rev. Andrew Warner and followed through during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Whitlock. A new church was erected on the same site as the previous one in 1905 and was built of concrete block at a cost of \$3,000. It was dedicated November 28, 1905, with a sermon by Rev. G. W. Hughey and Rev. Parker Shields.

In 1939, the name of churches of the conference was changed from Methodist Episcopal to Methodist Churches. In early 1951, under the leadership of E. B. Davies, DD, a \$35,000 building program was begun. Changes were made to the front which included a new foyer, new stairways, and the removal of the bell tower. To the rear of the building, classrooms, rest rooms, and a kitchen were added. Dedication services were held from September 16, 1951 to September 19, 1951, including the dedicatory sermon by D. Preston E. Horst, Decatur, and dedication of the parsonage which had

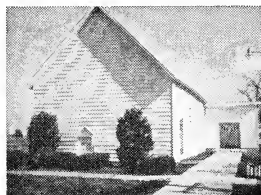
been constructed during the pastorate of Rev. John Lee Bilby. In 1968, a new lighting system was installed. In 1969, a new organ was purchased. In 1970, a new heating and air conditioning unit was installed. In 1973, the front and rear doors were replaced with steel clad doors, and awnings were added above the doors.

After the general conference voted in 1968 to merge with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the new name United Methodist Church was adopted. Through the years the church has had many organizations for its people. The Women's Missionary Society was organized in February, 1913. It was reorganized in 1939 as the Women's Society of Christian Service and included the Ladies Aid Society. On May 10, 1973, it became the United Methodist Women's Organization. Classes were organized to serve all ages in Sunday School. Mr. R. A. Peters served as Sunday School Superintendent for 32 years. At the present time, there are 15 classes and an enrollment of 167. There is the Methodist Youth Fellowship for the young people of the church.

The first assigned pastor came to the village in 1879 and was the first of 38 pastors to serve the Stewardson congregation. At the time the pastors also served circuit churches in the area. The pastors and their approximate dates of service are as follows: Rev. W. F. Shoemaker, 1879-1880; E. Gollagher, 1880-1881; J. O. Collins, 1881-1882; J. Glielk, 1882-1884; M.

K. L. Morgan, 1885-1886; S. W. Balch, 1886-1887; A. M. Campbell, 1888-1889; E. M. Sutton, 1890-1892; M. E. Hobart, 1892-1894; S. N. Wakefield, 1894-1896; J. M. Tull, 1897-1898; J. M. Eldredge, 1899-1902; A. Warner, 1902-1904; J. W. Whitlock, 1904-1906; Selby, 1906-1907; O. T. Pilch, 1907-1909; George Penell, 1909-1910; Grant Johnston, 1910-1911; D. T. Black, 1911-1912; H. C. Munch, 1912-1914; H. G. Swope, 1914-1915; W. A. Schell, 1915-1917; D. O. McRoberts, 1918-1921; E. K. Crews, 1921-1923; W. C. Montgomery, 1924-1927; H. A. Litherland, 1927-1928; William J. Edmunds, 1928-1935; Arthur Miles, 1935-1936; C. W. Ivie, 1936-1939; Gilbert Dude, 1939-1943; Guy Holmes, 1943-1945; John L. Bilby, 1945-1950; E. B. Davies, 1950-1953; George Baldrige, 1953-1955; A. C. A. Lee, 1956-1958; Charles Fradenburgh, 1958-1961; R. T. Wofford, 1961-1966; and Rev. Andrew Procell, who came in 1966 and is presently serving as pastor for the 238 members of the congregation.

#### The Seventh Day Adventist



Seventh Day Adventist Church on North Spruce Street.

On September 27, 1862 the Illinois Seventh Day Adventist Conference was founded. In 1902 the state was divided between the north and south and Stewardson became part of the southern division. Services were first held in a building near where the Springer Chevrolet Garage is now. In the summer of 1907 an Evangelical Team of the Southern Illinois Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists visited the community and held a tent meeting in the Village Park, resulting in the acceptance of their faith by many citizens of the community. The number and enthusiasm was such that a church was organized and building plans were started. In January 1907 A. J. Trueblood had purchased from William H.

Fagan and wife Elizabeth Lot 2 Block 5 Hurlbuts second division to Stewardson for the sum of \$125. Mr. Trueblood and wife Hannah deeded to the Southern Illinois Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists this site on which to build the church. He also furnished all the rough lumber for the church building. The church located in the 300 block of what is now Spruce Street was completed in the autumn of 1907 and Sabbath School and other departments were organized. The membership included the families of A. J. Trueblood, W. S. Proctor, Wiley Pleasant, Frank Hubbard, Mrs. Frank Williams and Ambrose Whitacre. For a time the church was quite successful, but in the 1920's and early 1930's the interest dwindled and the doors were closed. This condition did not exist long. Back in 1908 a group had been organized in the Kingman vicinity east of Stewardson, holding five church night meetings at Liberty Hall Community Building and braving snow three and four feet deep and winds up to 25 and 40 miles an hour. This group and a group in the Clarksburg area which had been meeting in homes and elsewhere combined with the Stewardson congregation and reorganized and reopened the Stewardson Church. New interest prevailed and in 1970 and 1971 under the leadership and direction of Pastor Richard Muir, the building was enlarged, remodeled and put into its present condition. Much interest is being shown and progress is being made under their present pastor, Donald E. Lund. Their officers at this time are Elders Wayne Figgins, Douglas Decker and Dewey Sidwell. Sabbath School Superintendent Shirley Figgins, church treasurer, Mrs. Leah Phillips, church clerk Mrs. Wilma Decker, organist, Beulah Idleman, pianist, Judy Syfert. Church board members are Pastor Donald E. Lund, chairman; Wayne Figgins, J. Dewey Sidwell, Leah Phillips, Wilma Decker, Douglas Decker and Irvin Figgins.

In the early days of the church they sent one missionary, Durward Williams, to China. He gave his life in the service of his church and is at rest in the lands of China. (24). The beliefs of the Seventh Day Adventists are that the seventh day is the Sabbath and the second advent of the coming of Christ.

### Washington Church



For a number of years services for the Washington congregation were held in the schoolhouse where the Washington Church is now located about 2½ miles northwest of the present village of Stewardson. As the church flourished under the leadership of the families of William Shumard, William Williams, Samuel Bailey, James Koontz, John Homrighous and others, more space was needed. The schoolhouse was moved ½ miles south to the corner and planning for a new church on the vacant site began. Mr. Homrighous donated the ground and offered to furnish the timber if the men would cut and haul the logs to the sawmill to be made into lumber. Mr. Koontz also donated lumber. Rock for the foundation was hauled by the members. The ladies also did their part. Mrs. Will Shumard was one of a group who rode horseback collecting money. Even children contributed their part by taking money to school for the church project.

In 1892 with much prayer and hard work, the church was built and ready for services with the pastor from the Stewardson Methodist Church doing the preaching. In order to purchase a new organ, the ladies of the church made a quilt. The quilt was purchased by Mr. Witmer, Nona Engel's grandfather. Nona still has the quilt. The Washington Church was on a circuit with the Stewardson Methodist for a time and so both churches were served by the same pastors. It was during the time that Rev. W. A. Schell (1915 - 1917) was pastor that the Stewardson congregation decided to become a separate church and the door of the Washington Church was closed. Some of the members transferred to Stewardson, but it was not convenient

for others to do so. After a time, Mr. John Collins, one of the devout leaders of the church, opened the doors and started Sunday School again. Rev. D. O. McRoberts of the Methodist Church and Rev. Martin of the Christian Church each held services and several evangelists also held meetings.

The church has continued to progress. In 1947 Mrs. Robert Hillard organized and became the sponsor of a group of young people called the Lighthouse League. Through the years this has been a very active group, helpful to the church and to the missionary work of the church. In 1948 the men of the church lowered and repaired the belfry and built a new chimney. More rooms were needed, so again through cooperative work, a classroom was added to the west side of the church and a furnace room on the east and new shingle siding was put on. This work was completed and dedicated on August 15, 1956. Since 1956 the sanctuary of the church has been remodeled, the ceiling of the church lowered and new light fixtures put in. The furnace, piano, and pulpit furniture were replaced with new ones. In 1961 a new altar was given to the church in memory of Irvn Kessler by his immediate family. In 1965 new seats were installed and new storm windows put on. The walls of the church were paneled in 1968. In 1972 new carpet was laid in the church and Sunday School rooms. The heating system of the church was repaired and electric heat put in the Sunday School rooms in 1973.

Pastors who have served over the years and other churches in the circuit include Rev. Kosher, Rev. Dill, Rev. Morton, Rev. Ernest Duling, Rev. Peas, Rev. Arthur Waters, Rev. Bost, Rev. Smith, Rev. Clark Tate, Rev. John Hubner, Rev. Earl Stierwalt, Rev. Delmar Bedmond, Rev. Ronald Sneed, Rev. Eugene Downs, Rev. Jack Fairbanks, Rev. James Williams, Rev. D. E. Angle, Rev. Harold Hamilton, Rev. Harold Carrell, Rev. Durward Harris.

At the present time Rev. Don Graham is the pastor on a circuit with Strasburg, and Gaskell. The present church membership is 48, Sunday School enrollment 73, and the Lighthouse League Youth Group has 18 members.

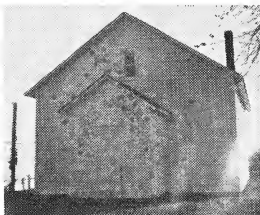
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## The Free Methodist Church



**Free Methodist Church** building on West Main Street as it looks today. Dale Moran owns it and is using it for a storage building.

In the years previous to 1905, individuals and families of the Village of Stewardson and rural areas were affiliated with and were members of the Free Methodist Church with churches located in Shelbyville, Sullivan, Fancher, Effingham, and elsewhere. Their numbers constantly increased and it became evident that a Free Methodist Church was needed in Stewardson. Under the leadership of E. H. Robertson, Joe Spearman, Ben Gawthrop and others, a group met and proceeded to elect officials and establish a meeting house. At this time the Stewardson Methodist Congregation was planning to build a new church because the old facilities were no longer adequate with the increased membership. The old building was offered for sale. It was purchased by the Free Methodists and moved to Lots 5-6 Block 8C Weeds Subdivision to the village of Stewardson, which is now 411 West Main Street.

The building was painted on the outside and redecorated within. Sometime later when services were discontinued at the Free Methodist Church at Kingman, members, including the Charles Boldt and Robert Koester families, transferred to the Stewardson Church. The church grew and thrived several years as a single unit. Although the membership was never very large, it was a devout and dedicated one. In 1915 the Stewardson Sylvan Circuit was formed. While this arrangement in a degree changed the well established services, the church moved on without showing adverse effects. In the years 1930-31 a building program was begun. The church building was reconstructed using much of the old material and its present appearance was attained.

This was under the direction of Rev. H. A. VanHorn church pastor at that time. Dedication services were held Sunday, April 12, 1931 followed by two weeks of Revival Services conducted by J. L. Mayhew, District Elder.

Changes were again made in the circuits. In the year 1938 the Stewardson church formed a circuit with the Effingham Free Methodist Church. In 1948 Stewardson was placed with Sylvan and Fancher. In 1949 Sylvan was located with Shelbyville, leaving Stewardson and Fancher as a circuit. In 1960 the Tower Hill Free Methodist Church was placed with the Stewardson, Sylvan circuit. By the year 1961-62 membership and attendance had dropped below ten, and the Central Illinois Conference declared it abandoned. Soon after the building was sold at auction. It was purchased by Kenneth Moran. It is now owned by Dale Moran and used for storage purposes.

One of the first ministers to serve the church was Rev. C. H. Coates, a young unmarried man who rode a bicycle to Stewardson, conducted services and visited his parishioners. He later married, but now is quite ill in a nursing home with his wife in Greenville, Illinois. Other ministers included Rev. J. C. Sills, R. J. Boling, Mayme Gardner, T. H. Eaton, Albert Barrett, J. G. Yeck, M. Harvey, C. W. Erandke, H. A. Van Horn, Homer Fester, C. A. McDonald, S. L. Phelps, E. G. Wyman, H. E. Goldshars, V. G. Kackley, C. E. Ring, Ruth Emigh, Ralph Allen, R. K. Fry, E. C. Hamm, Waldo Dooley, and Harold Brown.

## Baptist Church

The Baptist Church in this place originated about the year 1875. A prominent citizen, Mr. S. B. Fick, moved here from one of the cities. He and his family had been accustomed to attending Baptist services.

As a farmer, he came into contact with three or four families in the adjoining districts who were farmers and Baptists. After a short time, the Baptists were able to secure the services of Baptist ministers. In the early winter of 1887, Rev. D. P. French, missionary of the Illinois Baptist Association for the southern section of the state, visited the place, commenced and sustained protracted meeting with the little church. Before and after this period the congregation had enjoyed the occasional labors of Rev. Griffith, a clergyman living near

Strasburg. Rev. J. H. Phillips, pastor of the Shelbyville church, had also assisted them by preaching and helping in building their church. In addition to these, Rev. I. N. Hobart, D. D. Superintendent, labored for them and gave them aid in both spiritual and temporal matters. In the following year, through the intervention of Rev. Dr. Hobart, Rev. H. W. Wilson was sustained as a missionary of the General Association at Stewardson for several months. He received a good number into the church by baptism. In 1877 they built a neat church, located on what is now East South First Street where Dwight Friese lives. By the year 1881 their membership numbered about 50 members.

They continued to progress until the morning of Friday, February 23, 1892 when at 7:00 a.m. fire of unknown cause was discovered in the Livery Barn of L. J. Saunders, adjoining the church property. The flames spread to the Baptist Church, burning it to the ground. The church, valued at \$800, was never rebuilt. The membership filtered into other societies of the village and the Baptist congregation ceased to exist. October 2, 1892 the Christian Church permitted them to hold their services with Rev. Omstead, minister, preaching Saturday evening and Sunday 11:00 a.m.

## Christian Science Church

There were several followers of this faith at one time including the families of Frank Voris, Wesley Duddleston, Belles and Harry York. They met in the upstairs room of what was called the Opera Hall in what is now the Paul Yakey building.

## Catholic Church

Quite a number of years ago Catholic services were held in Stewardson every week-end in a building where the Post Office now stands. This building was known as the F. X. Gress building at that time. Later a brick building was erected there by Mr. Hoffman, a doctor from Teutopolis, who was a son-in-law of Mr. Gress. Father Foster, a priest from Ramsey came over on the Nickel Plate Railroad and held services here and then went to Shumway by the way of the Wabash Railroad to hold services there. A priest from the Green Creek Parish, several miles east of Stewardson, built an altar in the Gress building and also held services.



### Presbyterian Church

At one time there was a Presbyterian Church in Stewardson probably organized between 1882 and 1885. There was a brick house of worship with Elder Zerr as the minister.

### Prairie Evangelical Church

The Prairie Evangelical Church of the Indiana Conference was organized more than a hundred years ago, by a small number of families of German descent, including the Bredows, Beckers, Rozenes, Tabberts, and Fritzes. Land was donated by the Kasangs and the church was built on the southeast corner of the Kasang farm about four miles northeast of the present village of Stewardson. The services were in German until around 1900 when they were changed to English. Sunday School was held every Sunday, but church services were held only every two weeks, first on Sunday morning and then on Sunday night, because the pastor had three other parishes to serve. Members, taking turns when the pastor was not there, conducted services, which were called class meetings.

Rev. Schnitz, Rev. Heldt, Rev. J. W. and A. W. Feller, Rev. Fiedt, and Rev. Kistler served as pastors in the early years. Christmas and Children's

Day programs were highlights of the church year. The singing was without accompaniment until 1911 when an organ was purchased. Because of loss of membership through families leaving the community, church services were discontinued in 1921. The members sought church homes elsewhere. The church building was sold to Ben Klepzig, a farmer living near Stewardson.

### Wolf Creek Evangelical Church

The Wolf Creek Church also belongs to the Indiana Conference and was organized more than a hundred years ago by early settlers in the southwestern part of Prairie township. The church was built on land donated by Adam Kessler about three miles southwest of the present village of Stewardson near where Charles Reid now lives. The cemetery in the church yard was laid out about the same time. The congregation was served by the same pastors who served the Prairie Evangelical Church with services every two weeks and Sunday School every Sunday. Transportation in those days was by train, horse and buggy, and bicycle. A few preachers who were extra rugged even walked the distance of several miles and spent the night with the parishioners who took turns providing lodging and

meals, which no doubt were a little more lavish than ordinary. Grunerts, Kesslers, Reids, Corrells, Heidemanns, Quigles, Robisons, and Roberts were some of the church families. Services were discontinued about fifty years ago and the membership transferred to other churches. The church building was used by other denominations occasionally. In 1949 the Conference sold the building and the land to Charles Reid for \$100. The seats in the church were moved to the Mound Camp Grounds. The church was torn down and a machine shed was built on the site.

### III. Religion in Stewardson and Prairie Townships

#### A. Present Day Churches

1. Stewardson United Methodist Church
2. Trinity Lutheran Church
3. First Christian Church
- The Seventh Day Adventist Church
5. Washington Methodist Church

#### B. Churches of Yesteryear

1. The Free Methodist Church
2. Baptist Church
3. Christian Science Church
4. Catholic Church
5. Presbyterian Church
6. Prairie Evangelical Church
7. Wolf Creek Evangelical Church

## Readin', Writin' and Hickory Sticks

### Education in Prairie Township During The Late 1800's

Education in the early history of Prairie Township, as in any frontier area, was of a primitive nature. Subscription schools were set up in the cabin of some centrally located settler or in a meeting house with the parents of each child paying the teacher, often in provisions or in articles which could be bartered or sold for cash. By the year of 1821 the first schoolhouse in the county was built in Cold Spring Township and taught by Moses Story, a popular early teacher. The second one was built in 1832 in adjacent Richland Township. Another quite early school was taught in an empty house on John Spain's place in the adjoining Big Springs Township; but there was little in the way of systematic effort to maintain schools previous to the passage of the Free School Act of 1855. This law provided for the

support of schools by public tax money and their supervision by a superintendent of public instruction. Compared with our modern schools of today with their work tables and chairs, libraries and instructional materials room, record players, tape recorders, movie projectors, film strip machines, and their many other instructional aids and devices, these early schools were indeed most destitute in equipment as well as construction. The first schoolhouses were probably built of rough logs. Greased paper instead of glass was often used for windows. The furniture was of the rudest character. The individual plan of instruction was the one generally followed during the very early days with the emphasis on the three R's. Frequently there was an interval for loud study especially in the preparation of spelling lessons.

The old style schoolmaster could hardly be called a professional com-

pared to the teachers and principals of today with their bachelor's and master's degrees and yet there were many of genuine worth.

It would be impossible in a short space to trace all the changes that have been made in the educational field. New methods are ever being tried and discarded, we are always searching for better ways to train each individual and prepare him for duties of citizenship and perhaps never moving rapidly enough.

Eleven elementary schools including the Lutheran Parochial and a public high school have been in existence during the history of Stewardson and Prairie Township.

### Education 1856—Mound School

Mound School, known as District 1, was a very early school in Prairie Township. William Colston gave one square acre of land to the board of



This is a picture of the Mound School in the early 1900's. Most of the rural school buildings looked like this one, with a row of windows on one side, a front porch and a coal house.

directors on 11-26-1856 as a site for a school building. The land was located in the east corner of the southwest quarter of township 9 range 5 east. This was known as the E. Deal land in later years.

The first schoolhouse was a frame building located about 2½ miles southeast of the present village of Stewardson. There were no roads leading to the school at that time. Wild horses and deer roamed the country in numbers. After the turn of the century an addition, doubling the size of the school, was built.

The population of the district continued to increase until a total enrollment of 68 students was reached in 1926. People in the district voted to construct a new brick building. A brick building of two stories was constructed just south of the old building at a cost of \$7500, with donated labor and some professional help. Jacob Yakey was president of the board, Elmer Dappert, clerk, and Frank Schultz, director. Patrons and friends came to inspect the new building when it was dedicated in October, 1926. It was said by those in authority to be the best country school building in Shelby County. The lower floor provided for grades 1 through 4. The upper floor included cloak rooms, a small library, and classrooms for grades 5 through 8. Mr. Clinton McCormick bought the old Mound School and moved it a short distance to his orchard and used it for apple storage.

Milan York, husband of Mrs. Dora York, was one of the early teachers. Others included Mary Pfingsten, C. E. York, Laura York Righter, W. P. Walters, Mary Pfleger, J. T. Knox, T. L. Hillsabeck, Ed Quinn, Maude Beals, Fannie Lugar, Emma Klarman, Jacob Yakey, Daniel Augustine, Ed Heron, Rose and Mollie Harmon, Nellie Walker and Regina Keck. Salaries were as

low as \$18 a month for teaching services and janitor work.

Mound School continued in existence a few years after the other schools had consolidated. It was later sold. It is now being remodeled into a house.

#### Education 1870—Elm Grove School

Elm Grove School was located in a German settlement about 4 miles northwest of the present village of Stewardson and was built sometime before the year 1870. It was built to provide schooling for the children of that area who did not attend St. Paul's Parochial School at Strasburg. The ground was donated by Chris Altg, and the school might possibly have gotten its name because it was situated near a grove of elm trees. Joe Barr, Nellie Zimmers, May Rice, Amanda Green, and Mayme Green were some of the early teachers. In those early days there was little opportunity for higher education and the students continued in grade school until they were almost as old as the teachers. Recreation centered around the school after the fall work on the farm was completed. The school house was sold at auction and torn down following consolidation of the schools. The land now belongs to Robert Stremming, a great-grandson of Mr. Altg.

#### 1878—Herborn School

On November 8, 1878 Michael Weber donated an acre of ground for the Herborn School. It was known as District No. 7 and was located approximately two miles north of the village of Stewardson. It was donated with two stipulations: first that it be enclosed with a fence kept in good repair, and secondly, that whenever the lot was no longer used for school purposes, it would return to the original owner as was the custom at that time.

For instructional purposes the scholars were divided into primary, intermediate, and advanced groups. Even though it was a very full schedule for one teacher, programs were frequently given which also included older members of the district and served as entertainment for the community. An organized singing group, under the direction of Mr. Andrew Patton provided recreation. Even though many of the scholars had to walk a distance over unimproved roads and in inclement weather, perfect attendance was stressed. One student of many years ago remembers receiving a white Bible for having completed a year without ab-

sence or tardiness. The teacher often spent the night at the home of children, because of poor transportation and extreme weather conditions. Early teachers included Ada Lutz, Monroe Williams, Albert Bailey, Henry Pfingsten, Ed Burchfield, Nanna Boise, Arlyn Williams, and Rose Binghamon. It was sold to Ernest and Chris Kruger after the consolidation movement. Later Joe Brooks bought the building and moved it to Beecher City, and converted it into a house.

#### Education—Keystone School

The Keystone School House is still standing about two miles west and one mile south of Stewardson. It was first called the Bailey School. Ada Burke, Anna Scheef, Roxana Beck, Walter Dunlap, Florence Elliott, and Rose Harmon taught there a number of years ago. Schoolroom equipment compared with the schools of today was very, very meager. It was the custom in many of the rural schools to have a pie supper in the fall to provide money for some of the extras, such as library books, maps, globes and art supplies. The pies were baked by the young ladies of the district, put in gaily decorated boxes, and auctioned off. The young men buying the pies then ate with the young ladies. Contests were also conducted such as the most popular young lady at a penny a vote to bring in more profit.

The school building was bought by a group from Chicago called the Allied Gun and Rod Club.

#### Education—Rockford School

The Rockford Schoolhouse is one of the few rural schoolhouses still standing. It is located four miles north and three miles west of Stewardson. Myrtle Tressler was one of the early teachers. The schools in those days had what was called a winter term of five months and then a spring term of about two months. As a rule only the younger children attended the spring term because the older ones had to help with the spring farm work. Often a different teacher would be employed for the spring term. Although the three R's were stressed, the students were given a chance in more recent times to try their skills at handwork. Woodwork articles were made at recess when the weather did not permit outdoor play. Gilbert Ulmer bought the schoolhouse and used it for an animal shelter.

### Education—Prairie Hall School

The students living near the northeast edge of Prairie Township first went to school in a building located on Jim Kull's place. Later Prairie Hall School was built on land donated by Albert Vogel about  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles north and 1 mile east of the present village of Stewardson. In design it varied some what from the other schools. There was a hall extending across the front of the building with hooks for the children's wraps and shelves for their lunch buckets. Early teachers included Thomas Graybill, Claude Beck, Paul Chrisman, Ezra Blythe, Florence Staehle, Effie Beck, Robert Zimmer, F. J. Laughlin, and Fannie Hancock. In the 1890's the course of study included McGuffey's reading and spelling, history, arithmetic, grammar, writing, physiology, and geography. During the 1940's one of the highlights of the year was the so-called Field Day. On this day the neighboring schools would get together for athletic contests in the morning, followed by a basket dinner at noon, and a program of singing, folk dancing, plays, and recitations with all the schools contributing in the afternoon. Gaylord Figgins bought the school building, moved it, and used it for a machine shed following consolidation with Unit District 5A.

### Roley School

Roley School was located  $\frac{2}{3}$  miles west of the little town of Herborn on ground donated by Samuel Roley. The land is now owned by Clarence Grove. This school house was one of those in which the teacher's desk sat on a platform extending across the front of the room. This style of building no doubt gave the teacher an advantage in spotting an unruly child. Early teachers included Ella Green, Charles Wilson, Laura Wilson, and the Boise sisters, Lydia, Nanna and Edna, Emma Harmon, and Fred Grabb. Social activities such as egg roasts, debates, and various kinds of programs involved the entire district. After the schools were consolidated Roley School was torn down and the lumber was used by Eliza Grove in the construction of his house.

### Zalman School

The Zalman School was probably one of the first schools organized in Prairie Township. It was built on land owned by Henry Zalman and August Klitzke about  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles northeast of the present village of Stewardson. Selma Quinn, Ales Beck, Ethel Barker, Bertha Hoese, Nellie Walker, and R. A.

Peters were some of the early teachers. No doubt there were interesting activities revolving around the school. One source states that in 1887 the Literary and Debating Society was progressing well.

By 1907 the first schoolhouse had served its usefulness and it was sold to Fred Gruntman. He moved it to his farm west of Herborn where Cloide Caruthers now lives. In 1907 the citizens in the district voted to construct a new building on the same site. This building served the district until 1944. By that year the enrollment had decreased so much that it seemed impractical to continue having school in the Zalman district. The pupils, in the fall of 1944, were transported to the Stewardson School District No. 103 for a monthly sum of \$45. The building was sold to Frank Anderson. Two years later Charles Anderson bought it and moved it across the road where it still stands.

### Washington School

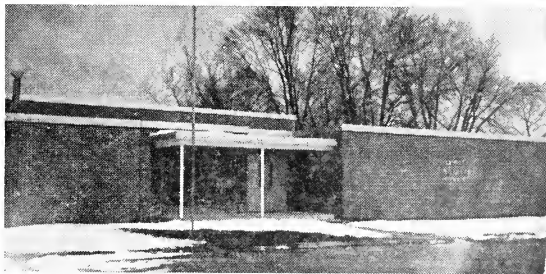
The Washington Schoolhouse once stood where the Washington Church is now, some 3 miles northwest of Stewardson. It was used both as a school and as a church. Later, it was moved  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south, to the corner. Early teachers were Monroe Williams, Joe Barr, Dow Williams, Adolph Peters, John Quicksall, Roy Shuff, Vernon Williams, Alma Williams, John Chahk, Jon Blythe, Ethel Krapp, and Nona Shumard. By 1917 this schoolhouse no longer met building specifications. It was bought by William Krumreich and moved across the road from his home and used as a granary until recently. It still stands on land owned by Clarence Krumreich. A new schoolhouse was completed and ready for use in the 1917-1918 school year. It was struck by lightning during its construction. Closing day in these rural schools

was usually an eventful day. The patrons of the district gathered for a basket dinner at noon and stayed for a program put on in the afternoon by the school children and to view an exhibit of the school work.

When the schools were consolidated, the Washington building was sold to Ernest Kruger. He moved it east of Shumway in the subdivision known as Idaville and remodeled it into a house. It was later sold to John Klepzig.

### Education 1870—Lutheran Parochial School

The children in the Lutheran families were first instructed by Pastor Rinker during his pastorate here. In 1876 Pastor Schlechte moved to the village of Stewardson and built a house which is now owned by the Charles Allsop family on East Main Street. He taught school and instructed the children for confirmation until 1882 in the summer kitchen at the rear of this house. The old building is now being used as a garage, on other premises. In 1882 a new building was constructed on some land acquired from the village of Stewardson, near the Lutheran church. A new school was built in 1938 at the cost of \$2750 plus much labor donated by members. It contained a full basement, a furnace and a kitchen. The old school was sold at auction for \$115 to Philip Peters. He moved and remodeled it into a modern home which is still being used. At the present time it is owned by Karl Lugar. The pastors did all of the teaching until 1950. Regular teachers were then employed. A house was built south of the church to be used as a teachers' residence in 1950. The Trinity Parent Association was formed in 1951. It is now known as P.A.L.S. with Richard Stremming as president this school year. By 1952 the school



Trinity Lutheran Parochial School

enrollment had increased to such an extent that another teacher was added to the staff to take care of the first four grades. By 1962 the enrollment had risen to 61 pupils and plans were made for the construction of a new building. A brick building, consisting of two class rooms, confirmation and meeting room, and gymnasium, was built at a cost of \$64,000. It was dedicated in October, 1964. The previous building was sold to Joe Falk, torn down, and rebuilt into the present Stewardson Fabric Center on West Main Street. The enrollment for the present school year (1973-1974) is 29, which includes grades 1 to 8. The teachers are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lieder.

#### Education—Stewardson Public School

In the fall of 1874 Mr. Goodell came to Stewardson and had school that winter in one room of his house. He received his pay from the parents of each child attending.

The first public school building was built in 1875 on a tract of land secured from Mr. Dicky Miller. It was a two room frame building with one room above, a room below and a hall and stairway on the west. Mr. and Mrs. Henry English were the first teachers. Four grades were taught by each teacher. Later an east wing was built with a hall and stairway in the center making four rooms. It was only a grade school until C. M. Fleming organized a two year high school in 1898. The first class of two pupils, Bessie Singer and Gaylord Miller, was graduated in



Mary Pflingsten

Miss Mary, as she was known to her students, taught the first grade in the Stewardson Schools for many years.

1900.

In 1909 a brick building was built just south of the frame building with a basement consisting of a furnace room, coal room, and two play rooms; first floor, three rooms and a hall; and the second floor, with two rooms and an office. J. J. Baker was the principal. Other early teachers and principals were Mary Pflingsten, R. A. Peters, Tom Shaw, Rose Gruenewald, Emma

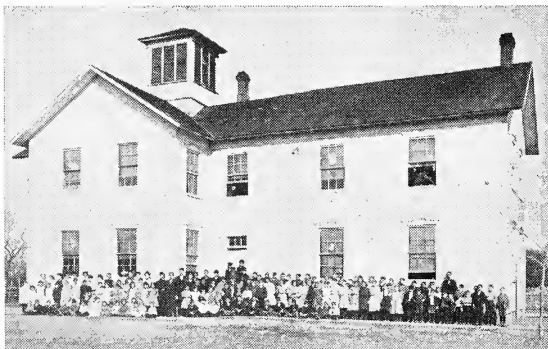
Sparks, Ed Graybill, Mollie Fenton, James Montgomery, Walter Beals, John Sargent, Mary Pfluger, and Mr. Utterback. John Klepzig bought the old frame building and built a house in the country east of town where Harold Reynolds now lives. A three year high school was organized in 1911 with six graduates in 1912: Rose Bingamon, Gail Frede, Virginia Voris, Lillian Bigler, Zepha Hagerman, and Edwin Engel. This was quite a step forward, but if students wanted a complete high school education they were obliged to go elsewhere. Some chose Windsor, Sullivan, or Shelbyville. Even in those days there were car pools. When the unimproved roads became impassable, there was transportation on the old Wabash railroad. Some of the students roomed and boarded in. Meetings were held as early as March 17, 1922 for discussing the organization of a community high school. In 1925 a referendum and a building expansion program made it possible to complete a four year high school. A gymnasium, assembly room, class room, and hall were added to the existing building. A water system and new furnace were installed. The first class of the four year high school was graduated with 21 members in 1926. In January, 1926, the basketball game between Stewardson and Strassburg was the first one played in the new gym. The largest graduating class from the Stewardson High School was in 1932. In December 1935 a permanent stage was constructed at the south end of the assembly hall.

This building served both the grade school and high school for nearly 25 years, with the first six grades on the lower floor and the seventh and eighth grades and high school on the upper floor.

#### School Consolidation Movement

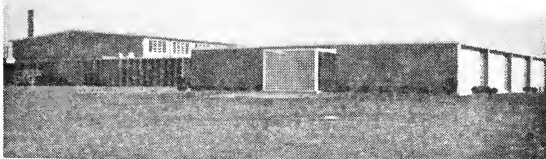
A school consolidation movement was started in 1949. Several rural schools in Prairie Township and in adjoining townships and the Stewardson and Strassburg Public Schools united and became the Stewardson-Strassburg Unit District 5A. A new high school building was constructed in the country on Route 32, near Herborn and has been in use since 1951. Harold Diel was superintendent and Lloyd Elam was assistant superintendent. A vocational agriculture department was added to the curriculum with the completion of the new school building. High school enrollment for 1973-1974 school year is 192.

Lloyd Elam, Superintendent; Melba



PICTURE OF STEWARDSON PUBLIC SCHOOL 1905 - 1906—Built in 1875

Tom Shaw, Principal; Rose Gruenewald, Assistant; R. A. Peters, Grades 7 & 8; Emma Sparks, Grades 4, 5 & 6; Mary Pflingsten, Grades 1, 2 & 3; Joe Whitacre, Janitor.



The top picture shows the high school part of the Stewardson-Strasburg School on Route 32, midway between the two towns.

The lower picture is the grade school section that was added to the high school building.



This 1974 Stewardson-Strasburg High School Basketball Team celebrated the Centennial year for both towns by winning the first Sectional Basketball Tournament ever for the High School in either town, and advancing to the Super-Sectional.

They also won the National Trail Conference and finished with a record of 25 wins and 5 losses.

Back Row, left to right: Coach Monte Nohren, Steve Strohl, Bruce Krile, John Merriman, Kevin Pickesh, Russell Bridges, Brian Rothrock, Assistant Coach Larry Holle.

Front Row: William Augenstein, Ed Renshaw, Dana Anderson, Greg Wascher, James Noffke, John Widdersheim.

Middlesworth, Sec.y; Donald Harrison, Principal, Geometry; Sheila Renner, Sec.y; Pauline Breeden, English and Journalism; Berneice Buesking, Home Ec. and Consumer Ed.; Kenneth Brauer, Typing, Bookkeeping, Business Math, General Business; Cloide Caruthers, Jr., Agriculture and Science; Larry Holle, P.E. and Health; Mary Kessler, Library; Kenneth Knop, World History, Baseball Coach, Guidance, Athletic Director; Marlene Kincaid, Sociology, Office Practice, Shorthand, Economics; Lois Luallen, French and English; Monty Nohren, Biology, Drivers Education, Basketball and Track Coach; Larry Speakman, Industrial Arts and Building Trades Class; Donald Oyer, Band and Chorus.

Four new subjects have been added this year: Health, Sociology, Economics and Building Trades. The Building Trades class is constructing a one-story, three bedroom house in the northeast part of Stewardson. It is expected to be ready for sale this spring, by sealed bids. The athletic program provides for baseball, basketball, and track. A Pep Club gives the team support at the games and the Letterman's Club runs a concession stand.

The Spinebinders (a library group), the National Honor Society, Projection Club, Future Business Leaders Assn., Future Farmers, and the Future Homemakers of America are active organizations in the school.

#### Stewardson-Strasburg Elementary School

Following the completion of the new high school building, Grade Schools were conducted at Stewardson, Strasburg, and Mode. Grades 7 and 8 were taught in Strasburg on a departmental basis. After several years with this arrangement it seemed no longer practical to try to keep these buildings up to specifications, so a new elementary building was built adjacent to the high school on Route 32, in 1969. The Stewardson school building and ball diamond were sold to the City of Stewardson May 2, 1970 for \$3200 and the building is now being used as a Civic Center.

There is a kindergarten which serves all children in the district. There are two rooms for each grade, 1 through 5. The Junior High (grades 7 and 8) has had three teachers for a long time. Besides the regular teachers there are teachers for library, art, vocal music for all, and band for those who want it, starting with the 5th grade. The last three years there has been a teacher



This is the picture of the first Stewardson Basketball Team to win the Shelby County Tournament. They were coached by J. P. Winn.

At the time of the County Tournament the road from Stewardson through Strasburg was almost impassable. The rural fans walked or rode horses into town and they rode with some of the town people.

On the last night a few places just north of town were so bad that the cars had to be pulled through by teams of horses. Some of the fans chipped in and they hired some draymen from town to pull them through going to Shelbyville and then had them wait until they came back to pull the cars through again.

The model T cars were light enough that the men could lift them out of one deep rut into one that wasn't so deep in some of the mud holes.

Seated Front Row, left to right: Otis Dappert, Charles Voris, Dudley Voris, Ernest Friesse, Wm. Bruns.

Standing, left to right: Harry Strohl, Harold Peters, Elmer Schultz, Irl Schuyler, Dwight Dappert.

(Title I) working with students who are not working up to their potential. A speech teacher replaced Title I in the 1973-74 school year.

The enrollment for several years has ranged between 325 and 350 in the elementary school. Elementary and Junior High Faculty for 1973-74 are: Ralph Buesking, Principal and Grade 6; Zona Gail Doty, Secy.; Carol Manhart, Kindergarten; Janet Giesler, and Elizabeth Stilabower, Grade 1; Marlene Wirth and Elverna VonBehren, Grade 2; Marilyn Allsop and Beverly Storm,

Grade 3; Gerald Lindsey and Ruth Manhart, Grade 4; Florence Richards and Martha Oyer, Grade 5; Delbert Fatheree, Grade 6; Marilyn Kaufman, Jr. High, Girls P.E. and Health; Constance Green, 6th Grade and Library; Thomas Niemerg, Junior High Math and Science; Linda Ray, Junior High English, Lit and 8th grade Orthography; Alan Krietemeier, Jr. High Coach, Social Studies, 7th Orth., and Boys P.E.; Dorothy Austin, Elementary Music; Lynda Ray, Art for Unit; Jane Giles, Speech Correctionist; Betty Slout, Teacher's Secretary.

## Sawbones, Hoss Doctors and Related Professions

Apparently, one hundred years ago, doctors were more plentiful than at the present time. During the 1870's Stewardson received medical services from Doctors: J. W. Knox, B. B. Bacon, R. T. Worley, and W. W. Pierce.

Dr. J. W. Knox was born in Clinton County, Ohio. His father died when Knox was only four years old and he had to become rather self reliant at an early age. He left home at the age of 11, determined to make his own way in the world. Education was important to him and he started reading medical books at an early age. He later continued his study under the direction of Dr. J. C. Shrader in Linn County, Iowa. He remained under Dr. Shrader's supervision for three years before entering practice with his preceptor and continued with him until Shrader entered military service during the Civil War. Dr. Knox then moved to Lawrence County, Illinois. He met



These are pictures of Dr. and Mrs. Knox. The top one was taken in 1864, and the other in 1914. Dr. Knox was one of the first doctors in Stewardson.

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Miss Victoria Trapp of Olney, Illinois and they were married in 1864. His health began to fail in the early 1870's so he and his wife moved to Barton County, Mo. Dr. and Mrs. Knox then moved to the new town of Stewardson in 1873 or 1874 and stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Arch Beals until his office and house were completed. Dr. Knox then returned to his Ohio Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1873 and graduated with the degree of M.D. in 1874.

Dr. J. W. Knox erected a building on the north side of East Main Street in 1874 to be used as a doctor's office, drug store, and post office. Later his office building was moved across the street to the corner of East Main and South Pine. The site is now occupied by the Stewardson National Bank. The building was moved again to the lot to the south when the Bank was built.

Dr. and Mrs. Knox lived in a one story frame house on the northeast corner of West Main and North Spruce, just west of the present day home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Webb. The brick summer kitchen is still standing.

Business and medicine almost totally involved his life and he worked long hours. He is remembered as being a rather independent and self-reliant person. Dr. Knox belonged to the I.O.O.F. and belonged to the Methodist Church during the pastorate of R. G. Montgomery. Mrs. Knox was very active in the Methodist Church and Stewardson Society. Although a sophisticated lady, Mrs. Knox enjoyed hunting rabbits with her old Rimfire Rifle. She was self reliant and independent like her husband, as were many of our early citizens. Dr. and Mrs. Knox's children were Carrie and Maud Knox. Dr. Knox died in Stewardson during the mid or late 1920's.

Dr. B. B. Bacon, physician and surgeon, along with his wife, Angeline Havens, moved from New York state to Shelby County, Illinois in 1854. They moved to Stewardson soon after the town was organized in 1874. Dr. Bacon practiced medicine in the village of Stewardson through the rest of the 1870's and 1880's.

Dr. R. T. Worley, an early physician, moved from Coles County, Illinois to Stewardson in 1870's and conducted his practice in an office located in his home. Some of our oldest citizens can remember their parents talking about the wonderful Dr. Worley. He was married to Mary J. Mitchell of New Jersey. Some of our older citizens

think they can remember him living on the south side of East Main Street some place east of the old Ulmer Oliver Sales.

One of the better remembered physicians of early Stewardson was Dr. Francis Lee Ingram. Dr. Ingram was born on 9-1-1836 in Indiana. He enlisted into Medical Services of the Union Army during the Civil War. He located in Stewardson after the Civil War and married Mary E. Shumard. Two of Dr. and Mrs. Ingram's children died in infancy and their son Harry is still remembered by many of the people of Stewardson. Dr. Ingram started his practice on the north side of Main Street but during the 1890's he moved his office between Moldankes Bakery and Fred Simmering's shoe shop on the West Side of South Pine. Apparently, Dr. Ingram also ran a small drug store in his office. Unlike modern druggists, he strictly sold drugs. Many people still remember his home on the southeast corner of West Main and South Spruce Street. Bill Moomaw later tore down the house and Wayne Moomaw lives there now.

A skillful surgeon, Dr. W. Wallace Pierce moved to Stewardson around 1880. He specialized in the "diseases of women and midwifery." His office was located above Hoese Dry Goods Store on South Pine Street. It is thought this building stood where the old theater now stands. The Clipper of 1887 stated that Dr. W. W. Pierce was "an expert in the management of difficult cases of confinement and a thoroughly-educated, successful physician." Apparently he performed several successful operations in Stewardson.

It is believed that W. W. Pierce left Stewardson around 1891. During the 1890's Drs. Cambridge, Cox and Donovan came to town. However, it was difficult for new Doctors to get started because of three established Doctors. Dr. Cambridge assumed the practice of W. W. Pierce. Dr. Cambridge was a single man and lived in a room next to his office. Dr. Cambridge came from Germany. He advertised in the Clipper, "Spricht, Deutsch und English." Some of the old timers recall that Dr. Cambridge made his calls in a two-wheeled cart and supposedly never unhitched his horse. It is thought that he was a doctor in Stewardson for about 10 years. Drs. Cox and Donovan only remained in town for approximately 2 years.



Dr. W. F. Holmes died in 1929; and his son, Wendell who had come here to practice medicine with his father, died about six months later.

Dr. William Franklin Holmes was born in Eaton, Crawford County, Illinois on 6-28-1867, son of Reuben and Mary Price Holmes. The family moved and Dr. Holmes spent his youthful days southwest of Stewardson, near the old number Seven School house in Effingham County. His parents died when he was 10 years old and he was bound out to another family. He left that family two years later and started making his own way in the world at the age of twelve. Young William Holmes entered Union Christian College in Merom, Ind., when he was 17 years old. He paid his way through school by digging coal at night and studying in the daytime. He graduated from Eureka College and went to work as a bookkeeper for Mr. Gregor and Company in Chicago, Illinois. Holmes then entered Rush Medical College in 1894, graduated in 1897, and started a medical practice in Chicago in April, 1898.

Dr. Holmes moved to Stewardson, Illinois in April, 1899 and married Miss Alice Hubbard of Effingham on 10-1-1899. Dr. and Mrs. Holmes bought the old Resler home on East Main Street and enlarged it to its present size, including the concrete block front. This house was later used as a home for the Lutheran Pastor and Clinton Friesse

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Dr. Holmes built this hospital at the intersection of Spruce and Main Street. Dr. Holmes died shortly after he built it and since then it has been used as a residence. Richard Johnson lives there now.

Dr. Holmes had great plans for this hospital and he performed a few operations in his operating room.

now owns the house. Dr. and Mrs. Holmes' family consisted of three sons: Wendell, Elgin, and Harold. One of these sons later assumed the medical practice of his father.

Dr. Wm. Holmes was practicing physician and surgeon in a one story frame building just west of the Wabash tracks on the south side of West Main Street. In later years this building was remodeled to include a brick and stone siding. Some of the carpenters recall that Dr. Holmes was so concerned about his practice being interrupted that he requested the new building be built around the old building and then the interior was changed. A professional card in the Clipper of 3-15-22, stated that his office was equipped for electro-therapy. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. William F. Holmes was appointed Health Officer and served as president of the Village Board for about 10 years, and was an active member in the Christian Church and three lodges. In 1926 Dr. Holmes founded the Stewardson Hospital on the northwest corner of West Main Street and North Spruce Street. The family moved to this new location, where his wife assisted him in caring for the sick.

Dr. Wendel Francis Holmes was born in Stewardson on September 10, 1902. He graduated from the Stewardson three year high school in 1920 and completed a fourth year of high school in 1921 at Sullivan, Illinois. Dr. Wendel graduated from the U. of I. medical school on 6-22-28 and completed a year of Internship at Deaconess Hospital in Chicago and Wesley Memorial Hospital in Wichita, Kansas. He came to Stewardson on 6-23-29, assuming the practice of his ailing father.

Ironically, a large career of medical service by one doctor and the promising

career of another ended almost simultaneously—Dr. William Holmes died at his home and hospital in Stewardson after several months of illness on 9-26-1929. His son, Dr. Wendel Francis Holmes, age 27, died on 11-13-1929, in the Shelbyville Hospital as a result of complication resulting from acute appendicitis.

Dr. John Newton Phifer was born in Mansfield, La. on October 7, 1848. He attended Tulane University Medical School at New Orleans in 1869. Dr. Phifer moved to Moccasin, Illinois and began the practice of medicine. He married Miss Sarah Owens of Moccasin, Illinois in 1872 and then returned to the St. Louis Medical College in 1873 for graduate work. Dr. and Mrs. Phifer moved to Shumway in 1874. In addition to practicing medicine, Dr. Phifer assisted in the promotion of the Shumway Park and took a very active interest in civic duties in Shumway. The Phifer family left Shumway in 1906 and moved to Chicago, Illinois for eight months. Dr. and Mrs. Phifer and children then came to Stewardson in the latter part of 1906 and Dr. Phifer became one of the well-liked doctors of our town. Dr. and Mrs. Phifer were the parents of eight children, with three of their sons entering the medical profession. The Phifer family were members of the Methodist Church in Stewardson. He practiced medicine in the Village of Stewardson from 1906 to 1915. Dr. J. N. Phifer then returned to Chicago, Illinois to be near his children and died in Chicago on 2-26-1922 at the age of 73.

Oliver Z. Stephens, son of Wm. and Margaret Stephens was born 2-1-1870, in Christian County, Illinois. Dr. Stephens was orphaned at the age of eleven and lived with his sister when she and her husband moved to Stewardson in 1892. During his early youth, Oliver Stephens worked in the coal mines at Taylorville and Pana to earn enough money to enter college. He graduated from Austin College, Effingham, Illinois and taught school around Lakewood, Illinois. It was during his years at Lakewood that he met Frances Josephine Jones. They were married in 8-29-1897, and then moved to Chicago, Illinois so that Mr. Stephens could attend the North Western Medical School. Dr. Stephens graduated with his M.D. degree in 1904 and began medical practice in Strasburg, Illinois.

Dr. J. N. Phifer retired from practice in 1915 and Dr. O. Z. Stephens bought his business. His old office building was located on the east side of South



Dr. and Mrs. O. Z. Stephens

Pine Street, just south of the Stewardson National Bank. This building was razed in 1973. Dr. and Mrs. Stephens and children: Lala, Lorna, Lowell, Osler, Juanita, Twila, and Lewellys lived in the old two story brick house across from the park on the corner of west Main and South Vine. Drs. Ingram and Knox were both elderly and later died leaving Dr. Stephens and Dr. Holmes as the only doctors in the Village.

Dr. Oliver Z. Stephens had an active medical practice until after the death of his wife in 1951. He could no longer make house calls or keep regular office hours because of poor health but he still continued to receive patients at his home until three months prior to his death in 1951. He practiced medicine for 48 years.

Dr. Stephen's experience during the flu epidemic of 1917 typifies the life of the old country doctor during the 1800's and the early 1900's. This epidemic occurred during one of the most severe winters in Illinois history. The doctor would be gone for days at a time traveling from house-to-house, by sleigh and buggy wrapped in blankets warmed by hot bricks. When he couldn't go by buggy or sleigh, he would go horseback. His meals were eaten wherever he happened to be. Drugs and medicines were dispensed from two black bags which he always carried. A common practice in case of communicable diseases, was fumigating after quarantine. One of the middle-age citizens tells of Dr. Stephens' dedication to his profession during the death-dealing smallpox epidemic of about 1927 or 1928. She remembers standing in line nearly a block from the doctor's office, waiting to be vaccinated. During that crucial period, Dr. Stephens worked tirelessly, and didn't go to bed for several days at a time. The practice of medicine in early Stewardson was certainly far different from our modern medical



practices and clinics of today.

There were also other doctors practicing medicine in Stewardson, Illinois for short periods of time between 1929 and 1941. Dr. M. Alcorn from the Illinois Research Hospital was the first of these doctors. Dr. and Mrs. Steven J. Hansen came to Stewardson from Chicago in 1933. Dr. Hansen was new to the medical profession and times were rough. He and his wife learned of Stewardson through the state medical registry. Dr. Stephens and his family were planning to be away for a few years and Stewardson needed a doctor. Dr. Hansen still recalls the rough depression days office calls were 50¢, if anyone had the money to pay for them. It was a common practice to accept shotguns, food, produce, or any other commodity in payment for medical services. Here and there, he would find enough money to buy replacement drugs and medicines. He still vividly recalls his visits in the country through mud and snow. Dr. Hansen never knew when he left in the morning whether he was going to be back to town the same day or not. Both Dr. and Mrs. Hansen were well liked by the people of Stewardson who were reluctant to see them leave. Dr. and Mrs. Hansen left Stewardson in 1935 and moved to Effingham, Illinois. He still continues his practice there to this day.

Dr. Sandberg came to Stewardson in the latter part of the 1930's. His office and home were located in the brick building on the north side of West Main St. where Strohl's Grocery Store is now located. Dr. Sandberg was a very competent doctor who had a number of new and rather unusual methods of practicing medicine. However, Dr. Sandberg was not a United States citizen. He took advantage of the opportunity to get his citizenship papers by enlisting in the United States Army. He did not return to Stewardson after World War II.

Peter Kollinger, the son of Franz and Susanna Schmidt Kollinger, was born October 12, 1924 in Ernsthause, Yugoslavia, a German community of approximately three thousand people. He attended six years of grade school before going to the Gymnasium in Betschkerek for eight years, where he graduated.

The Communists came into the area in 1944 and the German people were forced to leave the country. The Kollingers went to Graz, Austria. Peter attended medical school at the University



Dr. Peter Kollinger's Office located W. South 4th St.

at Graz, graduating in January 1951. He served 1½ years internship at Maria-Zell Hospital in Graz.

He married Milla Rohrer of Graz on November 3, 1951, and they came to the United States in April, 1952. He interned at Grant Hospital for one year, and then took his State Board Exam. He remained in Chicago, working as an examiner for Kemper Insurance.

Herbert, his oldest son was born in Chicago on January 4, 1953. The decision to come to Stewardson and start a practice was made and on May 6, 1954 they moved into the "Old Duddleston House." Both Doctor and his wife, Milla became United States citizens in 1957. Two more sons were born to the Kollingers, Edwin on April 22, 1955 and Erich on September 27, 1964.

A new Clinic Building was completed in 1962. Dr. Kollinger moved his practice to this location at 213 West South Fourth Street, where he is now practicing.



Dr. Lorton

Dr. Lorton lived in Shumway but he was the family doctor for many families in our area for many years. He always kept a good team of horses that he was proud of and he kept good care of them. In 1956 he was honored for fifty years service in this area.

In those days he went on regular trips to the patient's home besides making emergency calls when needed.

## DENTISTS

The early Doctors were medical Jacks of all trades, so to speak, and attended to all medical needs including fitting eye glasses and pulling aching teeth. Dental science was at best rather primitive as practiced by these early Doctors. One of our older citizens remembers going to one of these early doctors for a tooth extraction. The second time the forceps slipped off of the tooth our patient passed out. When he came to he was lying on the floor with the Doctor and forceps a-straddle of him. The tooth suddenly quit hurting and served the patient faithfully until it was extracted in 1966. Another one of our old citizens remembers going to another Doctor to have a tooth extracted, but that the Doctor's aim was a bit off that day. So the story goes the steadfast old doctor pulled 3 or 4 teeth until he got the right one.

From time to time throughout the years the citizens were fortunate enough to have the services of a regular dentist. Dr. Jesse Bowman of Shelbyville apparently was the first dentist in the village. He and his assistant, Dr. F. Reiss, practiced Dental medicine, in 1888, two days a week at Stewardson in an office located in the Old Button Hotel. They spoke English and German. The next known dentist in Stewardson was Dr. H. H. York. Dr. Harry York, son of Henry H. York, was born in Stewardson on Aug. 4, 1878. He attended the Indiana Dental College and practiced dentistry in Stewardson from the early 1900's until the 1920's. His office was located upstairs in the old Opera Hall. Dr. York was in poor health and retired to his home for a few years during the 1920's. Dr. York and family lived in a large house on the west side of North Spruce St. Aubrey Jones lives there now. Dr. York had a greenhouse behind his house and conducted a thriving flower business during the years he was recovering from his illness.

He later returned to his practice of dentistry for a few years. He was married to Frederica Homan. Their family consisted of 2 daughters and 3 sons. Dr. York died in 1932.

Dr. Harry E. Meyer practiced dentistry in Dr. York's old office in the Opera Hall for a few short years during the 1920's. He was born on December 13, 1895, in Epson, Indiana. He later moved to Illinois and taught in a country school for several years before going into dentistry. Dr. Meyers attended dental school in Chicago and came to Stewardson after Dr. York re-

tired in the early 1920's. He married Ada Mae Robison. Dr. Harry Meyers discontinued his practice in Stewardson on December 15, 1926 and moved his business to Windsor, Illinois. Dr. Meyers passed away February 20, 1972.

Dr. Shirley was the last permanent dentist in Stewardson. Dr. and Mrs. Shirley and family first lived where Glen Giesler lived, across from the park and later moved to the old Stewardson Hospital on the northwest corner of West Main and North Spruce. He practiced dentistry in Dr. York's old office in the Opera Hall throughout the 1930's and moved to Nashville, Illinois around 1940.

## VETERINARIANS

Shelby County for the most part was without the benefit of veterinary medicine until the late 1880's. Dr. T. B. Newly graduated from the Canadian Veterinary College and came to Shelbyville, Illinois in the spring of 1888. He practiced Veterinary medicine and surgery throughout Shelby County, including Prairie Township.

Dr. Pegill was the first Veterinarian to live in the Village of Stewardson. It is believed that he practiced veterinary medicine in this area through the 1890's and the early 1900's. Dr. Pegill's office was located in an old wooden office building on the southeast corner of North Pine and 1st North Street where Beals Body Shop is now located. Dr. Pegill was a single man and only barely remembered. One of the older citizens recalls that as a lad of six, he was sent to get Doc Pegill to treat their cow. The cow was choking on a pumpkin. Doc Pegill ask for a buggy whip. He used the playful whip to push the pumpkin down into the cow's stomach. The operation was a success.

Dr. Pegill was followed by Dr. Arthur L. Miller of St. Jacobs, Illinois. Dr. Miller came to Stewardson in 1907 and practiced veterinary medicine for two years. Dr. Miller lived in the Belles Hotel and maintained an office on the second floor of the Opera Hall. He made a number of friends in Stewardson but the veterinary business was not lucrative enough to warrant permanent residence. During his brief stay in Stewardson he met Olive Reeder and they were married approximately one year later. Olive Reeder was the daughter of a local businessman C. T. Reeder. Dr. and Mrs. Miller moved to Bethany but made frequent visits to Stewardson over the years.

Between Dr. Miller and Dr. Buzzard the veterinary needs of the local farm-

ing community were met by Charles Wilson and later Dr. Grabb. Mr. Wilson did not receive formal training in veterinary medicine and it is thought he learned the trade from Dr. Pegill. Mr. Wilson earned permission to doctor livestock through certification by three prominent livestock raisers, as was the custom in those days. Dr. Grabb practiced veterinary medicine in the early teens and moved to Findlay, Illinois around 1915. His office was on the second floor of the Opera Hall.

Samuel D. Buzzard, D.V.M. was born in a double log cabin southeast of Cowden, Illinois in 10-1-1876. He grew up in a section of Bowling Green Township, Fayette County, Illinois, that was referred to as Dixie. He completed his high school education at Beecher City in 1896 and entered Southwestern Business College in St. Louis, Mo. After graduation, he was employed as a bookkeeper for Mansville Pipe Covering Company. He also attended Austin College.

Samuel D. Buzzard was united in marriage with Ethel McElroy of Beecher City in 1901 and they both returned to the farm. They were engaged in general livestock and grain farming for approximately 11 years.

In 1912, he entered the Chicago Veterinary College and graduated in 1915. He first located at Caberry, Illinois and then moved to Stewardson, Illinois, six months later. Oddly enough, he had always wanted to settle in Stewardson but had never seen the town prior to 1915.

Ethel passed away in 1927 and he married Minnie Muchow in 1932. His second wife died in 1936. Samuel D. and Minnie Muchow Buzzard had one child, Samuel D. Jr.

Dr. Buzzard's office was first located on the second floor of the Opera Hall and then moved it to his home on North Spruce Street around 1920. The Opera Hall office was the scene of many a prize fight since a number of the business men used it as a boxing arena. In addition to Dr. Buzzard, Jack "Legs" Strohl and Adam Brummerstedt were two of the men who enjoyed this sport.

Dr. Buzzard practiced veterinary medicine in Stewardson area for 47 years covering a territory with a radius of about 35 miles. He also served as assistant State Veterinarian for several years and continued to test cattle for the State until his retirement, because of his strong commitment to the eradication of undulant fever. A sudden attack of arthritis brought his career to a quick end at the age of 83.

Dr. Samuel D. Buzzard died at the age of 92 on 11-27-68.

In addition to his veterinary practice, Dr. Samuel D. Buzzard was a member of the Village Board, a member of the Methodist Church, and a 50 year member of the Stewardson Masonic lodge.

## UNDERTAKERS

Noah Hosteter built one of the first houses in Stewardson, located in the southwest part of town. He sold furniture and the first undertaker, being in business in 1874. In 1879 he built a new residence in the east part of town.

Francis X. Gress, proprietor of a furniture and undertaking establishment in Stewardson, was born in Bavaria, Germany, February 5, 1836. Gress was apprenticed to learn the trade of cabinet maker for three years when he was 15 years old. He worked at this trade until he left Germany and went to Chicago in 1857. He worked as a cooper in a brewery near Chicago to pay his board. In June 1858 he moved to Shelbyville and married Josephine Alzman in 1865. They moved to a farm in Prairie Township in 1868 and continued farming until moving to Stewardson. His only child, Mary, a devout Catholic, married Dr. Frank Hoffman. Mr. F. X. Gress and Joseph Steidle built and operated a packing house under the name Steidle and Gress. Mr. Gress built about 1/2 block of frame buildings in block 10 starting on the corner of Main and South Pine where the present Post Office is located. There was a board walk in front of the buildings and he raised flowers just south of his store. In 1876 Mr. Gress started a furniture store and undertaking business in a two story building on the corner and lived upstairs. He made all of his own furniture and coffins in his cabinet shop. Mr. Gress died in 1902 or 1903 and gave his property to his daughter and Dr. Hoffman.

Cyrus Engel was in the undertaking business in Stewardson prior to World War I. When Mr. Engel returned from the war, he married Nona Shumard and located in Nokomis for about a year before returning to the F. T. Engel Lumber Co. in Stewardson. Adam Brummerstedt purchased the funeral and furniture business from F. T. Engel and Sons in 1918.

The Brummerstedt Funeral Home was first started in Shumway, Illinois, by Mr. Diedrich Brummerstedt. He came to this county in 1871 from Hannover, Germany. He and his wife

Mary (Engel) Brummerstedt resided in Shumway. They were the parents of four children, John, George Adam, Bertha (Bock) and Anna (Kelly). Diedrich. Brummerstedt's trade was casket and furniture building.

Their son, George Adam, received his embalmer's license at Springfield, Illinois, in 1903. He then returned to Shumway, and started the first Funeral Business. He later married Emma (Quast) Brummerstedt on August 29, 1906. To this union were born six children, namely, Anna Marie (Harrington), Gilbert, Ray, Myra (Wallace), James, and Marcella (Keller).

Mr. Brummerstedt, in October of 1918, moved his family and business from Shumway to Stewardson. They operated a business in the Engel building on North Pine for one year, and then moved it to a building on the Southwest corner of Main Street and Cedar, until March of 1931. G. A. Brummerstedt, Sr. purchased the brick home of H. H. York in the east part of Stewardson on Main Street. He then sold the furniture business back to F. T. Engel and moved his funeral business to its present day location, in March of 1931. The Brummerstedt Ambulance Service was started in 1925. The first ambulance was a 1925 black seven-passenger Hudson. G. A. Brummerstedt's son, Gilbert, followed in the family business. Gilbert went to Brown's College in Decatur, Illinois for one year, worked at Leath's furniture store in Decatur for two years, and graduated from Hohenschuh-Carpenter College in St. Louis, Mo. March 30, 1934. Gilbert and his wife Geraldine (Falk) Brummerstedt operate the service which has been in business for 74 years. Mr. George Adam Brummerstedt is one of the oldest licensed funeral directors and embalmers in the state of Illinois at the age of 88.

Some time in the 1930's Cecil K. Syfert operated a funeral business in the Hoffman Block Building on South Pine. Also, according to the records, Robert L. Brandt and John Rozine operated a furniture and undertaking business in the Hoffman Block building in 1914.

#### APOTHECARIES

Thomas N. Robison, son of Edwin A. and Elizabeth Phillips Robison, was born in Windsor, Illinois, on November 30, 1846. He received his Pharmacy license in 1877 and opened

the T. N. Robison Drug Store in the Village of Stewardson during the same year.

Mr. Robison lived at Pfluger's boarding house until his marriage to Miss Isabelle Stewardson, October 17, 1883. They promptly moved into "the Cage" as their home in the south part of Stewardson was called. Mr. Robison conducted his drug business in Stewardson until his death on January 12, 1912. His wife continued to live in Stewardson until her death on April 14, 1937. Mr. and Mrs. Robison had one child, Lora May.

The T. N. Robison Drug Store was located in a white one story building on the west side of South Pine Street in block 10. Mr. Robison handled RX medicine, patent medicine and a full line of products generally found in drug stores. In addition to the drug business, Mr. Robison was a founding stockholder in the Stewardson Homestead & Loan Association, a director and stockholder in the Citizens Savings & Loan Association as well as being a director in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Stewardson, Ill. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robison were very active members of the Methodist Church.

Mr. R. A. Peters married the Robison's daughter, Lora and later on assumed responsibility for Mr. Robison's Drug business in 1913. Mr. Peters added the sale of jewelry to the business and employed a full time jeweler for a number of years after making a number of improvements in the building. Mr. Peters moved the old T. N. Robison Drug Store to the rear of the lot and built on a new addition in front. Mr. and Mrs. Peters continued in the Drug business until selling to Mr. O. J. Renolds in 1939.

Mr. and Mrs. Renolds continued selling other medicines, medical supplies and Sundries through out the 1940's. No doubt many people in their 30's and 40's remember receiving part of their education through O. J.'s comic books. Where else could one read every comic book on the rack from cover to cover before making the final selection?

"Doc" Turner and his son, Russell continued the sale of Drugs and Sundries during the 1950's. How many remember "Doc's" soda fountain specials—"Green Rivers" and "Chocolate Cokes"—and the shuffle board games in the rear of the store?

Melvin Sterling bought the business from the Turners and operated the old drug store until the early 1960's. Mr. Bob King bought the business from Mr. Sterling but changed the product line from drugs and sodas to groceries and meat. Mr. King then closed Bob's Market near the start of the present decade and the building is presently standing vacant.

Dr. Knox and Dr. Ingram also ran drug stores in connection with their medical practice. Dr. Ingram sold nothing but drugs at his store in the front part of his office on South Pine St. Dr. Knox sold a large variety of items in his store on the corner of South Pine and east Main.

Doctors, Dentists, Veterinarians, and Undertakers in the Village of Stewardson:

#### A. DOCTORS:

1. Dr. J. W. Knox
2. Dr. B. B. Bacon
3. Dr. R. T. Worley
4. Dr. F. L. Ingram
5. Dr. W. W. Pierce
6. Dr. M. C. Cambridge
7. Dr. Cox
8. Dr. Donovan
9. Dr. W. F. Holmes
10. Dr. W. F. Holmes
11. Dr. J. N. Phifer
12. Dr. O. Z. Stephens
13. Dr. S. C. Lorton
14. Dr. Peter Kollinger

#### B. DENTISTS:

1. Drs. Jesse Bowman & F. Reiss
2. Dr. H. H. York
3. Dr. Harry E. Meyers
4. Dr. Shirley

#### C. VETERINARIANS:

1. Dr. T. B. Newly
2. Dr. Pegill
3. Chris Wilson
4. Drs. A. L. Miller & \_\_\_\_\_
5. Dr. S. D. Buzzard

#### D. UNDERTAKERS:

1. Noah H. Hosteter
2. Francis X. Gress
3. Cyrus Engel
4. Geo. Adam & Gilbert Brummerstedt
5. Robert F. Brandt & John Rozine
6. Cecil K. Syfert

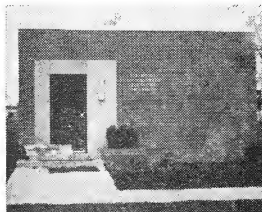
## Poles, Lines and Cross Talk

"Hello Central"



This is a picture of one of the first telephone maintenance men in Stewardson. The note on the card said that this was Alex Davidson.

It is believed that the first telephone in this general area was at the home of Andrus Harrington, just southeast of Stewardson. However, the first telephone service in the Village of Stewardson was a private line built by Mr. G. W. Voris from his office to his home. The first telephone from Stewardson to another town was a line that ran from



Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company Building on W. South First St.

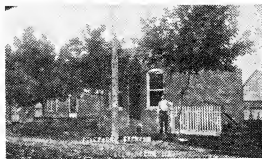
the home of Ruben Spannagel in Stewardson, to the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Duensing and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ulmer of Stewardson. The first long distance pay telephone in Stewardson was located in T. P. Mautz's General Store. It cost twenty-five cents to call Shelbyville.

The Village of Stewardson, Illinois by ordinance number seventy authorized J. B. Singer, D. M. Duddleston and T. B. Mautz to construct and maintain a telephone system on February 3, 1902. Our records indicate that Wm. Frede served as the first lineman. A Charter of Incorporation was granted to the Stewardson Telephone Co. on November 3, 1902. The first telephone office was upstairs in Bill Millington's harness shop on West Main St. Eva Williams was the "day" operator and Edith Wilson served as "night central." Within a few years the office was moved into the "old Gus Gritzmacher tailor shop" at 117 North Pine. The phone service rapidly filtered into the rural areas, but mostly on a mutual basis. Neighborhoods or communities would join together, put up their own lines and maintain and supervise them at their own expense; however, all the lines were channeled through the Stewardson Telephone Company's Central Office. Several independent Mutual lines, in time, were absorbed by the Stewardson Telephone Company. Some people think the telephone company also went by names of "Stewardson Mutual" and the "General Telephone Company."

In April 1931, the Midland Telephone Company purchased the Stewardson Telephone Company, and in October, 1935 the Midland merged with the Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company. The Stewardson Exchange has continued from that date to the present as a part of the Illinois Consolidated Telephone system.

Approximately 16 years ago the system was placed under the dialing system, eliminating the central office employees here. In the early days, the pioneer employees answering calls were called "Hello Girls" later "Operators" and now they answer by saying "Directory Assistance."

There were many "Hello Girls" during those days but the records indicate that the one who served the longest was Eva Williams. Miss Mae Newberry, now Mrs. Mae Augenstein, was an "Operator" from 1917 to 1926 and from 1949 to 1956 with a total of 21 years of service. Mrs. Lillie Fluga was "Central"



This is a picture of the building that housed the telephone exchange in the early 1900's. As shown to the left, a frame building stood where Beals Body Shop is now. This had been moved there from Main Street.

In the background is a large barn. At one time in the thirties Ira Gawthorp kept horses in this barn.



This picture is the same building used as a residence now.

from February 1, 1926 to August 26, 1958 with a total of 32 years of service. Nellie Williams Gesler, Nona Munson, Ethel Marsh, Selma Seward, and Inez Prosser were some of the other operators who served.

In October, 1903 there were 87 telephones in operation. By 1911 the telephones in service had grown to 342. As of July, 1973 the Stewardson Exchange had 628 telephones in service.

"The Old Lampliter"

In Stewardson's early days its lighting system was quite crude. It consisted of a post about 7 feet high. On the top of the post was an ornamental box, with sides of glass with metal edges. The box at its base was about 12 inches square, 16 inches square at the top, about 18 inches high with a metal top. In this glass enclosure was an ordinary kerosene lamp about 14 inches high, with a base about 6 inches high, and the chimney about 8 inches high. The base held about 3 pints of kerosene. Daily the lamps were filled with kerosene, the chimneys cleaned, the lamps lighted, and placed in the glass enclosure. They were left burning until 10 p.m., at



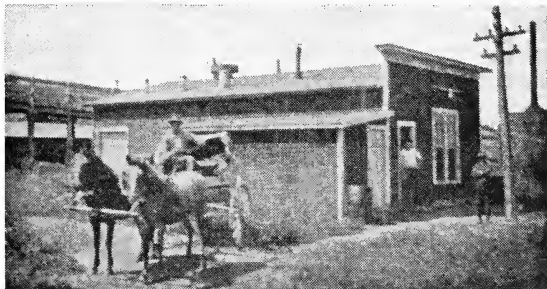
This is a picture of the light post that stood in the middle of Main Street at the intersection with Pine Street. At one time there were four of these posts up-town.

which time they were blown out. Up-town there were two lights on the business corners, opposite each other. In the dwelling area a single lamp was on each corner. This system continued until 1911, at which time Mr. Frank Williams was granted rights to erect, install, and operate an Electric Lighting System. At one time the Village of Stewardson considered purchasing the system, and on October 7, 1918 Mr. Williams offered to sell the system to the Village of Stewardson, Illinois for \$18,000.00. The deal was not consum-

mated. However, a deed dated December 21, 1923 and recorded April 25, 1924 executed by Frank Williams and his wife, Ada B. Williams, transferred the system to the Prairie Electric Company of Stewardson. This Company served the community until April 1, 1929 at which time a Quick Claim Deed was executed by the Prairie Electric Company of Stewardson, transferring to the Central Illinois Public Service Company of Mattoon, Illinois, all real property, chattel rights of way, easements, privileges and appurtenances of every kind and character, owned or used by said grantor or which it is now or may hereafter become entitled, wheresoever same may be situated. This company has been and is presently furnishing Electrical Power, lighting, etc. Also since August 31, 1964 via a Gas System which was installed and put into operation on that date, gas for heating and other usages, and purpose.

#### "Big Spurt—Little Squirrel"

In the early days of Stewardson, wells, some deep and some not so deep, furnished the necessary water. Homes had one well and some two or more. In the business area there was a well on the corner of the business block. For fire protection there was a hidden well, midway the block on the side of the street. This system was maintained and served the community until 1956 at which time the city installed and put into operation their present Municipal Water System.



This was the headquarters for the first Electric Light Plant started in Stewardson. It was located in the second block on North Pine Street, just north of the Town House.

In the background you can see part of the stockyards located here to load livestock on the Wabash railroad.

This Light Plant was started by Frank Williams and Oscar McIntosh, uncles of the present mayor.

#### "All Aboard"

In 1869 surveying was done for a railroad through Prairie Township. This was later known as the Wabash railroad. The Village of Windsor and townships of Windsor, Richland, and Prairie contributed about \$200,000.00 to get the railroad. The Chicago and Paducah branch of this railroad was completed in Moultrie and Shelby Counties in the years of 1873-1874. Shelby County stations were located at Stewardson and Strasburg, and in Herborn by 1878. Later the name was changed to Western and Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific, and finally the Wabash Railroad.



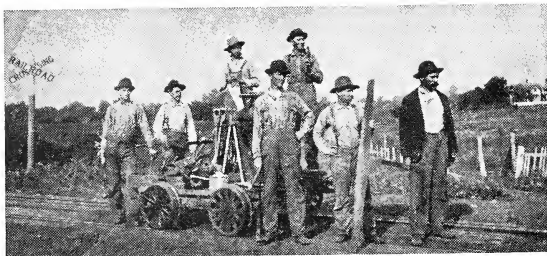
Although this picture isn't an early picture, the building had never been remodeled. It served as the depot for the Wabash Railroad until the track was removed. The telegraph office was also in this building when telegraph messages were the quickest and most reliable ways to send information. The telegraph operator delivered the message in person many times.

The little boy is David Baumgarten.

About 1887 and 1888 some of the agents were Albert Shelton, James Haney, M. M. Williams, and Willis Keller. This railroad ran north and south through town. The passenger train was called "Green's Train" after the conductor, and had two coaches. In the old days the coaches were always full of people going to visit friends or pupils and teachers taking the train to get to the schools in town or the country schools near the tracks. It discontinued its run through Stewardson in the 1930's.

The "Local" was the old freight train that traveled the Wabash tracks carrying produce and products for all of the little towns from Bement to Altamont. "Local" passed through Stewardson about noon on its trip to the North and returned in the evening. An unusually large freight would be made up of about one dozen full box cars.

The railroad tracks that ran East and



For many years in the early part of this century, the railroads were the principal employers in our community. Two section gangs worked out of Stewardson. This is a picture of these gangs. Notice the two handles used to pump and to provide the power to travel. Later they got gasoline engines for these cars, but they still called them hand cars. The engines were the "hit and miss" type. They went over the tracks at least once a day. In case of severe winter weather, one of them would walk to check for any defects.

Besides the two section gangs, several men worked on bridge gangs, fence gangs, paint gangs, etc. Newt Reid had a bridge gang for many years with most of his men being local people. They moved their bunk cars near the site of their project and lived in this car while they worked there. They rode the passenger train home on weekends.

The only man we could get identified on this picture is the man holding the handle. He is Bill Reid, Madge Elliott's father.

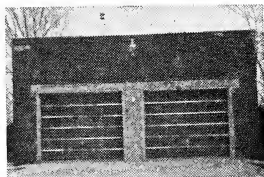
West through town was called the Cloverleaf at one time and was a branch of the Toledo, St. Louis and Western Co. In 1881 Mr. Henry H. York became one of the Board of Directors of the Cloverleaf Railroad in the State, and placed a large contract for grading east of the Okaw River during the building of the railroad. In the year 1882 the community suffered "hard times," therefore, many of the local people helped to build the tracks and the railroad was completed in 1882-1883. In 1889 it was changed from narrow gauge to wide or standard gauge of track. Being built from both directions it was joined somewhere between Volkman Hill and where the railroad crossed Route 32. Mr. R. A. Peters' father helped widen the railroad and Mr. Peters remembers seeing the first train go over the railroad after it was widened.

The Cloverleaf was sold to the Nickel Plate and then was bought by the Norfolk and Western in the 1960's. "Old Plug" provided transportation to all the small towns to the West in the morning and East in the evening. The other passenger train known as the "Commercial" zipped through Stewardson in the early morning hours on its way West, but could be flagged down in the

evening for passengers. Several freights continue to run on the tracks daily at the present time.

Noah Kribble, Walter Donaldson, and L. F. Painter were agents during the last days the depot was in operation. Mr. Painter came in the 1930's and retired in the middle '60's due to ill health.

### "Let Her Burn"



This building was originally the George Mechling Blacksmith Shop. It was built about 1920. It was used by the F-S Service Company for a storage building for many years. The Stewardson Rural Fire District has used it to house the fire fighting equipment since 1966.

Fire protection in earliest Stewardson depended on its system of wells and the "bucket brigade." Before 1900 the Village invested in a "hand pumper" to pump the water from the hidden wells to the burning building. This piece of machinery operated like the old railroad hand car and required at least four men to work the pump. This system served the Village until about 1925. They pulled this pumper to fires in later years by fastening it to a car bumper with a rope and someone had to sit on the pumper and hold the rope. Some of our citizens have had some hair raising experiences riding the racing pumper to a fire. F. F. Yakey bought a chemical fire cart for the Village from Ft. Wayne, Ind. for \$150.00. This chemical rig was equipped with



These are the three fire fighting units owned by the Stewardson Fire District at the present time.

Standing beside the middle truck are Assistant Fire Chief Charles Fluga, and his son Gerry. Gilbert Brummerstedt is the Fire Chief.



This is the chemical fire fighting unit that the Stewardson Fire Department used before they got their first fire truck.

Lowell Koester was pulling it in the Effingham County Fair Parade when this picture was taken.

two tanks. The idea was to fill one tank while the other tank was being used but for some reason it seldom happened that way. This fire fighting machine is still in the Village of Stewardson.

An Army Surplus pumper was bought around 1945 or 1946 and mounted on a pick-up truck and was later mounted on a larger truck. This and the old chemical wagon served Stewardson until the Village and the Country Fire Protection Association consolidated into the Stewardson Fire District in 1966.

### **"Neither Snow Nor Rain . . . Nor Gloom of Night!"**

"Neither snow nor rain . . . nor gloom of Night . . ."

The post office was first established as "STEWARTSON" February 24, 1874. It was changed to "STEWARDSON" June 25, 1883. The postmasters from inception date were:

John W. Knox, Dr., February 24, 1874 to September 2, 1885.

Thomas A. Curry, September 23, 1885 to February 8, 1887.

Thomas P. Mautz, February 8, 1887 to April 26, 1889.

William V. Carr, April 26, 1889 to June 19, 1893.

Fred M. Simmering, June 19, 1893 to June 16, 1897.

Charles E. York, June 16, 1897 to November 7, 1902.

Walter B. Talcott, November 7, 1902 to January 16, 1908.

Caleb T. Reeder, January 16, 1908 to January 17, 1916.

Edward Streng, January 17, 1916 to August 1, 1924.

Miss Oral Beck, August 1, 1924 to October 10, 1929.

William A. Denn, October 10, 1929 to May 3, 1934.

Mrs. Rose Zalman, May 3, 1934 to June 30, 1964.

Elmer Bernhard Keller, June 30, 1964 Acting October 1, 1973.

It was customary during the early days of Stewardson, for a local businessman to be appointed as the village postmaster. Generally the post office was run as a side line and was usually located in his regular place of business.

The first post office was located in Dr. J. W. Knox's Drug Store on the north side of East Main Street. It was later located on the present day bank corner when Dr. Knox moved his building and business to that location.

The post office was moved to T. P. Mautz's General Merchandise Store on Lot 4 & 5 in Block 10 of South Pine Street during his term as postmaster. Fred Simmering moved the post office to his shoe shop on Lot 6 of Block 10 during his term of office.

The post office was again moved to a two story brick building in Block one, on West Main Street after Caleb T. Reeder was appointed postmaster. The post office remained at that location until 1959 with the exception of the term of Bill Denn from 1929 to 1932. Mr.

Denn moved the post office to the corner of the Hoffman Block Building during his term as postmaster.

Thomas A. Curry, Charles E. York, and Walter B. Talcott conducted the postal business in the west part of the opera building on the north side of West Main in Block one. William V. Carr served as postmaster in a wooden building that stood generally on this same location.

The post office was moved back into the west part of the Opera Hall in 1932 and remained in that location until Oct. 1959. It was then moved to the newly erected brick building on the corner of West Main Street and South Pine Street. The post office is still in this location.

## **Soup to Nuts**

### **GENERAL MERCHANDISE**

Stores that were always present in Stewardson were the ones referred to as Variety Stores, Grocery and Dry Goods Stores, General Stores and General Merchandise Stores. Essentially, all of these businesses sold the same types of product and these could be classified as General Merchandise. The very first business of this type in Stewardson, was started in 1874 by Wm. Fagan and Wm. Pfluger. The location of this business has been lost to history.

One of the most successful of these early Stewardson Business men was Thomas P. Mautz. Mr. Mautz had studied the milling trade in Pana and Rosamond, Ill., prior to coming to Stewardson in 1874. Twenty year old Tom Mautz worked as a miller in Stewardson for approximately four years. He moved to Shumway, Ill. to establish a general mercantile business in 1878. However, he moved his business to Stewardson in 1879., and formed a partnership with Henry H. York. Their store was located on S. Pine on a site now occupied by the Moomaw building. Mr. York sold his interest to Peter Dideca in 1884 and the business continued as Mautz & Dideca. Among the things usually sold in a general merchandise store, Mautz and Dideca also kept hardware, tin ware, and pumps. Mr. Dideca left the firm in the late 1880's, and Mr. Mautz continued the business until 1906. Mr. Mautz then moved from the Village and opened a General Merchandise Store in Lovington, Ill. He returned to Stewardson in 1914 and open-



Weber's Store was an important general store for many years. This picture shows the interior of the store. Notice how items were displayed. From left to right: Martha Weber, Andrew Weber, unidentified lady, Wm. Krumreich, Elmer Shumard, Louis Weber, and Fred Schultz.

ed a Variety Store, at his original location. In addition to the Variety Store, Mr. Mautz operated a coal business along the Wabash tracks and a poultry business on the site of the present day fire house on S. Cedar. The poultry house burned, but he, with the help of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ira (Hap) Gawthrop, continued with the Variety Store until 1929.

Henry H. York was another well-known business man of early Stewardson. He moved from Windsor to Stewardson in 1877 and entered into business with Fredrick Hoese as York, Hoese, & Co. A price list of York, Hoese gives some indication of prices in the 1870 era.

Heavy domestic, good 7-9¢  
Bleached Domestic, good 10¢  
Good prints 5¢ per yard  
Best Coffee 4½ - 5 lbs. for \$1.00  
Good Brown Sugar 10 lbs. for \$1.00

York and Hoese dissolved partnership on July 17, 1878. J. A. Tull purchased Mr. York's interest and the firm continued for several years as Tull & Hoese. It is general opinion that the store was just north of T. N. Robinson's Drug Store. This site was the later location of the Theater. Mr. York continued as a business

man until about 1903. Mr. York bought a Dry Goods Store and housed it in the Opera Hall building in early 1900. This store was operated by his sons, Millian and Charles. By 1910, the York boys accepted employment with the U.S. Postal Department and moved to St. Louis, Mo.

H. R. Keller and L. H. Keller were also early business men during the 1870's and early 1880's. They sold Groceries, Dry Goods, and a variety of items. Apparently their business was on the south side of W. Main St. between the Wabash R.R. and S. Cedar St. This business probably ended in the late 1880's.

Other General Merchandise business in the 1870 era included: R. E. Miller & Sons and Henry Wolf. R. E. Miller and sons operated a grocery and dry goods business in the Reed Walker building during the latter 1870's. They sold their business in 1879 to Daniel Cross of Shelbyville. Cross advertised in the Stewardson Enterprise that he would sell groceries for cash, cheaper than anyone in town.

Henry Wolf and John W. Falk started a general merchandise store in a two-story frame building on the Southwest corner of West Main and S. Cedar, during 1870's for approximately one year.

Mr. Falk moved to Herborn on a farm and Mr. Wolf went to work as a salesman for T. P. Mautz. Some of the older people remember Mr. Wolf for his salesmanship ability. It was believed that he could have sold snow to the Eskimos if he had the opportunity. Mr. Wolf was the father of Ralph and Cleve Wolf and the family lived on the Southeast corner of South Pine and S. First Street. Their yard and home was the site of many dances and social events including the collapse of Ed. Ruff's Merry-Go-Round. Mrs. C. A. Mietzner tore down the old store after the turn of the century and built the brick house that now serves as the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Boldt.

I. W. Long, John Richards, and C. T. Reeder were familiar names in the general store business during the 1880's. I. Long started his business in 1886, carrying fresh groceries and a full line of dry goods. Apparently he sold his business in the first part of 1890 or before. John Richards sold groceries, clothing and boots throughout the eighties. C. T. Reeder operated a general store until 1884. Four years later, on Aug. 24, 1888, he re-opened for business on W. Main Street selling groceries, dry goods, clothing, glass and a variety of other merchandise. Mr. Reeder was known to the local men as "Caleb of the Boots." It was the custom in those days for all of the business men to have nicknames. Bill Milligan purchased the store later and changed it to a harness shop. Mrs. Bernadine Milchman now resides in Mr. Reeder's residence on South Cedar Street.

Dan Ressler and Bill Hideman operated a general merchandise store on the N.E. corner of E. Main and N. Pine in the 1890's. Mr. Ressler tore down the old building and rebuilt a new two-story brick structure about 1895. John Ricketts ran a cafe in the basement of the new building. Although the Bauers bought the building around the turn of the century, most people remember the building as Weber's Store. John Backer, Wm. Frede, and the Weber Brothers, Louis and Andrew, were some of the people that ran grocery and dry goods businesses at that location. The second story of the building was removed during the 1950's. An adjoining building was constructed to the east in the early 1900's and Wm. Frede operated out of both buildings and referred to his business as the "Big Double Store." Barrels of crackers, a big

This page sponsored by FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION of Shelbyville  
FALK PRODUCE, Stewardson  
ORA & JUANITA FRITZ  
FALK REPAIR SHOP, Strasburg—Farm Machinery Overhauling & Welding





This is a picture of the store buildings that stood where Baumgarten Construction, Masonic Lodge and the This and That Outlet are now. Henry Ulmer had the Hardware Store.

coffee grinder and other bulk foods were featured in the west half; while dry goods, shoes, clothing, and carpets were sold in the east half. Louis and Andrew Weber continued this tradition until the early 1950's under the names of Weber Brothers and Weber and Co. During 1950, Ervin Moran used the store to sell household appliances and then Byron Graham used it as a warehouse. Today, Baumgarten Hardware & Appliance Store, operated by Steve Baumgarten, is located in the west part and the Masonic Lodge Hall is in the east section.

The building joining the east side of the Lodge Hall was originally built by Henry Ulmer as a saloon. Mr. Ulmer and Rufus Drapper operated restaurants in the building and Mr. Ulmer ran a hardware store in 1917. However, many people remember this building as the site of Floyd Whitacre's and Elmer Falk's Store. Clinton Storm ran a grocery store in the building during the early 1920's, prior to Mr. Whitacre's creamery and egg station. Elmer Falk took over from Mr. Whitacre in the 1930's and continued as part of Falk's Produce Co. Part of the Produce Co. also operated out of the old stables on N. Pine St. They would ship several truck loads of poultry and eggs to Chicago every week. Gilbert (Gib) Brummerstedt, Falk's son-in-law, continues to maintain this building under the name of Falk's Produce Co. Today he spe-

cializes in livestock feed, Veterinary supplies, lawn mowers and still buys some eggs from the local farmers at the N. Pine site.

Mr. Falk also sold groceries in the building east of the Masonic Hall and other occupants of the grocery store were: Fred Gruntman, Orval Cohea, Everett Gordon, Jake Duntelman and Arthur and Nellie Ullrich. Today, Willie Miller operates a "This & That" store with a pool hall in it.

The present day site of the Depot Sample Store was another prime location for early business in Stewardson. The building on this corner housed millinery shops, harness shops, hardware, furniture stores and a roller rink over the years. There were also a number of general merchandise stores on this location. Bill Hideman operated a grocery, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ ran a variety store and Jack Ashenbramer ran a grocery store in later years. Probably the best known merchant to have a store at this location was C. A. Mietzner, Sr. He ran a general store in the brick building on the corner during the early 1900's. He later turned the business over to his nephew, Chas. A. Mietzner, Jr. during the teens. Charles and Rose Mietzner sold dry goods, groceries, and Kimball pianos in their store on "Quality Corner." They later moved their store across the street. The "Quality Corner" building was used as a feed store by Gib Brummerstedt, a creamery

by Bud Schultz, and as a meeting place for the Christian Ladies Aid and the American Legion.

Just across the street, Frank Williams built an additional store, located between his Hardware Store and the Wash Depot on West Main. This building was built of lumber from the 1904 World's Fair. Charles and Rose Mietzner moved their grocery and dry good business in the building in the early 1920's and continued until their retirement in 1947. Clinton Friesse bought the building and converted it into a self-service store, a novelty for the citizens of Stewardson. Somehow the idea of self-service didn't really seem to catch on and Clinton found himself still getting the items off the shelves, for his customers in the old traditional manner. Walter and Arnieta Strohl purchased the business from Mr. Friesse on Sept. 2, 1949. Four years later, they moved to their present location, 110 W. Main. The old store stood vacant until it was razed.

The Opera Hall, a two story building which is still in existence today, housed a number of clothing and general merchandise businesses during the first quarter of the 20th Century. Otis Frizzell, from Cowden, operated a grocery store on the first floor of the Opera Hall in 1902. He was followed by Chas. and Milian York's Clothing Store, Bradley and Tallae's Clothing Store and Curry & Grove. Charlie Grove and Sam Elliott ran a grocery store around 1914 and were followed by Donaldson Mercantile Co. and Ralph Whitacre during the latter teens and twenties. In later years, the first floor was used as a Post Office, a plumbing shop and cafes. Today, the Dwight Kesslers operate a cafe in it.

During the 1940's, Jim Brady ran an ice business and a small shop that sold tobacco, soda, candy, and a few groceries in the building just South of Junior Hobson's present day barber shop on S. Pine. Dean Roley ran an upholstery shop from 1952 to the mid 1960's and at times it was occupied by Jeff Webb, Paul Kaase and Albert Weber for a shoe repair shop. Prior to shoe shops, Mr. Hartman used the building as a grocery, Mr. Johnson for a 10¢ variety store and the Torcen Brothers for their harness shop. The oldest known business in the building was Joel Shelton's Saloon.

Mr. Fred Milchman erected a brick building on the west side of S. Pine that

This page sponsored by JANSEN'S DEPARTMENT STORE, Effingham

JOHNKE FEED MILL, Strasburg

JOAN of ARC CHAPTER ORDER OF EASTERN STAR, Stewardson

HAROLD, WILMA & DEBBIE KESSLER, BILL & ELLA KESSLER

he used for a grocery store. Along with Milchman's store, Mr. Robey used part of the building as office space for his Insurance Co. and Gerald Brandt cut hair (plain and fancy) for a few years in the building. Mrs. Grace Falk Cecil purchased the building in February, 1952 and opened a dry goods store. This was discontinued and the building stood vacant until the Rail & Truck Salvage Store moved in.

In more recent years, Melvin Sterling purchased the old T. N. Robinson Drug Store on South Pine from Russell Turner. In addition to the usual products sold in a drug store, Mr. Sterling also added a small line of groceries. Bob King took over the business in 1962 and later bought the two buildings to the south. Bob's Market featured meat, a line of groceries, as well as dry goods and shoes. Mr. King closed his market and moved from the Village in 1973.

Fred Gruntman operated a large grocery store in the corner of the Block Building which burned down in 1948, located at S. Pine and W. Main. Mr.

Gruntman later rebuilt part of the old building and reopened his grocery store. The new building is now used as the American Legion Hall.

### HUCKSTER WAGONS

In the early days, hucksters were an important part of the rural community. Huckster wagons were loaded with all kinds of staples, such as spices, smoked meats, materials, thread, and many other articles.

The huckster wagon was an enclosed wagon, drawn by a team of horses with shelves built on both sides leaving an aisle through the center. Drawers were under the shelves for holding many items, and there were doors to enclose the shelves, since it was necessary to keep the items from bouncing out.

Charles Flugha ran regular delivery routes around the Stewardson area for Wm. Frede.

When he arrived at a farm home, the homemaker would bring out eggs and

chickens to trade for the needed merchandise. The chickens were placed in coups along the aisle of the wagon. Eggs were placed in cases on top of the huckster wagon. Smoked sausage was hung from the ceiling.

The huckster man was popular with children, because he would treat them with candy.

Mr. Flugha would be gone for a couple of days on his route. He would start out east of Stewardson and go as far as the Green Creek community. He would stay all night at Barney Nuxoll's and then start back to Stewardson the next morning. He would arrive in Stewardson during the evening band concert. After he arrived, he had to unload the poultry and eggs that he had traded for.

When Weber Brothers and Company bought out Wm. Frede, Louis Weber ran the huckster. Later George B. Schultz ran the last huckster for them. Through the years Elmer Falk and John Falk also ran the huckster wagons.

## Manufacturing, Commerce and Agriculture

### HOOP-POLE SHOP

Leffler Bros. started a Hoop-Pole Shop in Stewardson sometime in the mid 1870's and developed it into a thriving industry by 1878. It is thought that the business may have been located just north of the original town near Voris Elevator. However, they moved the business to a newly constructed Hoop-Pole shop on their lots in the south part of town in 1887. Barrel hoops were in great demand during the latter 1800's and this was a rather lucrative business. Between April 1877 and 1878, Leffler Bros. shipped 200 freight cars of Hoop-poles to the State penitentiary at Joliet. It seems as if they were sending out at least a car load of hoops per week through the late 1880's.

Hoop-poles were 7 to 8 foot long willow or hickory poles cut near the little Wabash River. The pole had to be at least 3/4" in diameter at the smallest end. These poles were split and made into barrel hoops. Wood barrels were used in those days to store and ship most food stuff, including flour, meat, and apples.

### PACKING PLANT

Mr. F. X. Gress and Joseph Sheidl built a square framed packing plant south of town in 1876. F. X. Gress sold his interest to Wm. Mietzner in 1887. Albert Mietzner then bought Mr. Steidle's interest in 1888. Mr. Steidle moved to Paris, Illinois and started another plant a few years later. Wm. and Albert Mietzner did most of their own butchering, without extra employees, and sold the fresh meat through their meat shop on West Main Street. This building was later replaced with Dr. Holmes office. Mr. Phingston, father of a future teacher, bought the old packing plant and ran it for a few years

in the late 1890's. Mr. Phingston expanded the slaughtering business and employed eight to ten men.

D. M. Duddleston took over the business from Phingston and operated it until 1926. The old frame building burned down in the early 1920's and Mr. Duddleston built the brick packing plant. Duddleston also installed a huge diesel engine to power the new packing plant. The pistons in this engine were about eighteen inches in diameter. It was necessary to pump several hundred pounds of air into the engine to get the piston moving fast enough to start the engine. Duddleston sold meat locally and to the surrounding towns. He would travel as a salesman to the



The Stewardson Packing House.

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surrounding towns on the train and then later ship the meat by rail.

Mr. F. F. Yahey bought the packing plant in 1926 and expanded production and the size of the territory served. A novel twist was added when Mr. Yahey brought a fleet of trucks to sell his products in 1929. The meat business became less profitable and the old Stewardson Packing Plant closed in 1934. The plant was reopened just before the start of World War II and continued in operation until 1949. During the peak years 50 head of cattle a day and 400 head of hogs a week were processed in the plant. An area covering a 100 miles radius from Stewardson received the benefits of fresh meat from this industry.

#### BRICK YARD & TILE FACTORY

Mr. Lawrence Zerr was born in Alsace, Germany August 10, 1850 and came with his family to America in 1852. They first located at Vincennes, Ind. His mother, Mrs. Mary Zerr died in New Orleans upon their arrival in this country. Mr. Michael Zerr, Lawrence's father, died in 1863. Sometime around 1864, Lawrence left for East St. Louis and worked in a brick yard. In 1867 he came to Shelby County with William Telgman and located in Strasburg. Mr. Telgman started a brick yard and Mr. Zerr worked for him for several years and later became a partner in the business for two years. In 1879 Mr. Zerr located in Stewardson in the north part of town approximately where Clete Nosbisch had his junk yard. He operated a brick yard for four years and then moved to Carroll County, Mo. Eleven years later he returned to Stewardson and started manufacturing bricks again. Zerr's brick yard was a small business that made brick only for local use. It was difficult for them to keep up with the local demand since they made bricks by hand with a two brick wooden cutter and operated only one kiln.

In 1907, Zerr's son Otto started in the concrete business and in 1908 joined his father as a partner, becoming L. & O. Zerr. They added to the business and manufactured concrete blocks and conducted a general contracting and building business.

Mr. D. M. Duddleston who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio in 1857, moved with his parents to Shelbyville

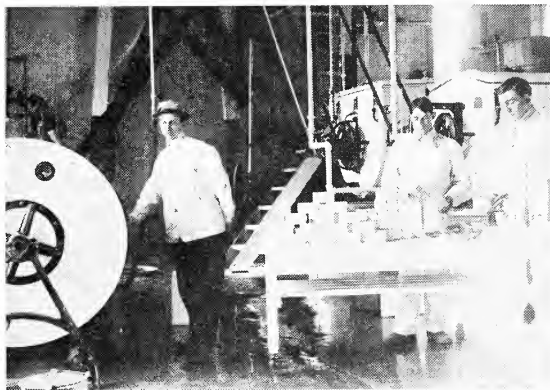
in 1864 and soon settled on a farm in Prairie Township. He married Louisa Trice in 1874 and went into farming. They started a brick and tile business in Stewardson in 1884. It was located approximately where the Yahey Trailer Court is now. This was a thriving business at that time and several car loads were shipped out each day by rail. At the height of production, they ran three kilns which were fired at night by Tom Duddleston and Sol Blue. Clay was scooped into a machine that molded the brick, cut them to size with a system of cutting wire, and pushed the finished brick out at the other end of the machine. They were then put in long sheds to dry before going into the kilns to bake.

It took three days to burn a kiln of brick, and longer for hard brick, which were put in seven to a rack. One kiln held about 1300 brick. After the bricks had cooled, Tom Duddleston would toss seven loose brick at a

time to the stacker. There were many a smashed finger. For a short time C. T. Reader was a partner with Duddleston and in 1888 William Dikeman purchased Mr. Reader's share. The tile factory went out of business some time in the late twenties.

Henry H. York also ran a brick factory before 1900. This factory was located just across the Cloverleaf tracks from the elevator and south of Delta Debolt on the old Flugla place. They got their clay for the bricks from Jack Flugla's pond and a pond behind Eldo Tate's house.

Brick making in early Stewardson and the surrounding area was a widely conducted business since many people built their own brick yard when they constructed a house. They would sell a few bricks and then go out of business. However, York's, Duddleston's and Zerr's brick kilns were the primary ones in this area, since they also shipped brick out of town.



An inside picture of one of the creameries in Stewardson. Wm. Friese is the man in the middle.

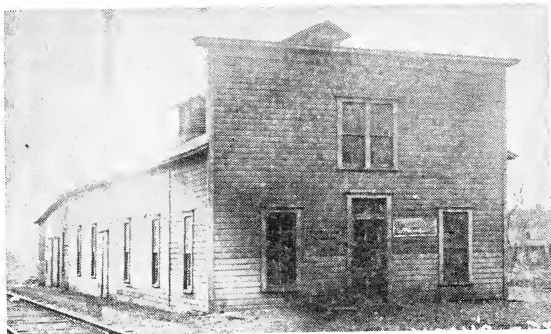
#### CREAMERIES

Lars Johnson was born October 10, 1854 in Ystad, Sweden. He was the youngest of eleven children. He settled in Prairie Township in 1876, and bought 100 acres in Section 36. Mr. Johnson retired from farming and moved into Stewardson in 1903.

In 1904 he started a Creamery business in Stewardson under the name of Johnson Sanitary Creamery Co. and sold Clover Blossum Dairy Products. This creamery became the largest in this part of the State.

This business was located west of the present Prairie Township Hall. Ice was cut from the Baumgarten ponds in

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Johnson's Creamery that stood on the west side of the Wabash Railroad tracks south of Main Street.

the winter and hauled to the Johnson Creamery. In 1922 the Johnson Creamery made vast improvements and additions to their creamery and ice plant including an ice cream plant.

Prior to the 1900's the Farmer's Co-op creamery started in the south part of town near the Church blacksmith shop. This was located east of the South Pine Street on Wolf Creek, just north of Lake Paul. This served as a collection station for milk only, however cream was apparently separated from the milk also.

The Union Dairy was also started in

the early 1900's. It was located where Russell Mueller now lives. This creamery had a number of owners and changed names several times. The Union Dairy was owned by Union Dairies in St. Louis. Later it was bought by another out of town firm and called the City Dairy.

In 1922 the City Dairy built an addition to their creamery. The last owner was Bill Denn and Bill Friese managed it.

#### CHEESE FACTORY

Wayne Huffmaster owned the farm that Glenn Huffmaster now lives on, one and one-half miles north and one mile east of Stewardson, and he has told us that Robert and John Manhart had a cheese factory on this farm. They had a two-story building in which the farmers drove up onto the top part to empty the milk. The cheese was hauled to Mattoon to be sold.

Mr. Huffmaster, one of our older citizens, told us that his family moved here in 1890 from Owaneco. They had to lead the cows behind the wagon. It was a two-day trip. He says that he worked in the post office on the Doug Spain farm. It was moved to Kingman.

#### LUMBER COMPANY

The first record of lumber dealers in Stewardson was sometime between 1874 and 1878. Moberley, Smyser and Tull located their business on the west side of North Pine Street approx-

imately where the lumber yard now stands. John Moberley, Hugh Smyser, and John W. (big John) Tull were the men involved. Along with the lumber business Mr. Tull was a notary public and a Loan and Insurance agent selling Aetna of Hartford, Home of New York, and Phoenix of Brooklyn N. Y.

Jacob F. Bauer moved to Illinois in 1865 and purchased 40 acres in Prairie township and began working as a carpenter. He added to his farm and finally owned 220 acres of mostly original wild prairie. In 1885 he traded 120 acres of land for his lumber business. Along with the lumber business he sold farm machinery, builders hardware, and paints. He owned five acres in Stewardson where the Baumgarten addition is located and lived where the John Manhart home used to be. This house was built by Joe Falk, grandfather of the present Joe Falk. Jacob Bauer was the father of "Tob" Bauer and Martha Weber, wife of Andrew Weber. Tob Bauer built the brick building known as the old Engel Building on North Pine.

The first record found of the F. T. Engel Lumber Co., owned by F. T. Engel was dated June 12, 1901. F. T. Engel died in 1930. The company was owned by C. C. and E. W. Engel from 1936 to 1946 and continued to operate under the name of F. T. Engel Lumber Co. They sold hardware, lumber, coal, and furniture. E. W. Engel died in 1937.

In 1946 ownership changed to C. C. and E. V. (Voris) Engel and later to include C. R. Engel. The name of the company was changed to the Engel Co., in 1947. The Milchman Building on Main St. was bought that same year and appliances were added to the selling list. In 1954 Anne Engel (wife of E. Voris Engel) deeded her interest in the business back to C. C. Engel. Mr. C. C. Engel died in 1953.

#### HARDWARE—FARM IMPLEMENTS

Shafer, Turner, and Baldwin moved to Stewardson, erected a building, and put in a stock of hardware in early 1874. It appears Mr. Shafer may have left the partnership sometime in 1875 and the business continued as Turner and Baldwin. By 1878 Mr. Baldwin had



#### UNION DAIRY

This dairy was north of the Nickel Plate tracks on Spruce Street. It was called the Union Dairy and was owned by a St. Louis firm. The Plug would stop in front of the dairy to pick up their butter. They had a track from inside the plant through the wide door in front out to the railroad tracks, so that they could haul cart loads of butter to the train.

This page is sponsored by **MARGUERITE'S BEAUTY SHOP**, Stewardson  
**LATCH'S GROCERY**, Joe and Dorothy Latch  
**PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY**  
**KWIK WASH LAUNDRY & CAR WASH**, Ralph Mietzner



This picture shows Harold Ulmer (left) and his father Henry Ulmer in their hardware store in about 1917 or 1918. This store was in the building at E. Main St. where the "This and That Outlet" is located now, 1974.

To the left, is a row of the modern stoves of that time. The first one was one of the fanciest stoves that could be bought, a base burner. It burned anthracite or hard coal. It was a slower burning coal and burned with a pretty blue flame and with less smoke than soft coal. This coal was more expensive and then got harder to get. Notice the cellophane windows around this stove so that the pretty blue flame could be seen.

Most of the rest of the stoves look like cook stoves, wood and coal burning stoves used for cooking.

assumed sole responsibility for the business and continued under the name of G. S. Baldwin Hardware. Peter Dideea entered partnership with G. S. Baldwin around 1879 or 1880. This partnership continued for only one year. It is believed that Baldwin's business was located on the southeast corner of West Main St. and South Cedar in an old frame building pre-dating the brick building. The location is now occupied by the Depot Sample Store. G. S. Baldwin lived on the street east of Planter's Elevator office on N. Vine St. He also owned a large tract of land south of Stewardson along the highway. He sold hardware, stoves, farming equipment, and the usual plunder. Baldwin also did job work in tin and sheet iron. Apparently Mr. Baldwin discontinued his hardware business sometime in the early or mid 1880's.

It is believed that Jake Wilkerson started a hardware store at about the same location and the business continued through the 1890's. Walker and Wilkerson sold hardware, furniture,

paint and were dealers for the Reliable Weber Wagon. Mr. Walker later retired from the business and a young man by the name of Frank Williams joined Jake Wilkerson in running the hardware store in the 1890's. Prior to joining Wilkerson, Frank Williams ran a watch repair and tinker shop down the street east in an old building that was later rebuilt for Dr. Holmes' office. Wilkerson and Williams specialized in hardware and tin work. Some of

the tin work involved making tin cans for a canning factory in Neoga. Someone would haul the sheets of flat, stamped-out cans into Stewardson on wagons. Williams and Wilkerson would then put the cans together, and tie them into bundles of twelve cans each, to be hauled back to Neoga.

Frank Williams then moved across the street and built the first building on the northeast corner of North Cedar and West Main at the present location of Latch's Grocery. Mr. Williams sold hardware as well as International and John Deere Farm Implements. He later expanded his business to include a tin and plumbing shop, and hot water, hot air, and steam heating plants. Mr. Williams's brother-in-law, O. C. McIntosh, joined the business as a partner. Mr. Williams built an addition to his original store some time in the early 1900's out of lumber that Zeke Boggs purchased from the 1904 Worlds Fair in St. Louis. Mr. Williams built additional store rooms between his original store and the Wabash Depot in 1922. Mr. Williams closed his hardware store in the late 1920's. Mr. C. C. McCormick bought the store in 1931 and operated the hardware business until 1934. In addition to running the hardware store, he continued with his interests in farming, apple raising, and insurance. The new owner continued the hardware business in the same location until 1940.

In 1940, Frank Williams's original building was remodeled into a service station. This building was in continuous use as a service station in combination with groceries until it burned in 1962. Some other owners running service stations in this location were: Stanley Steagall, Clem Roley, Buss Phillips, Zane and Ed Mayberry, Paul Strohl, Witt Grove and Joe Latch. After the old building was destroyed by fire Mr. Latch rebuilt and now with his



This is a picture of Main Street looking down from the corner of Cedar St. Frank Williams's Hardware Store was in the first three buildings. In the background you can see the Wabash Depot, the building that stood where Strohl's Grocery is now and the Opera Hall.



This is the interior of the Hardware Store that stood at the corner of Main and Cedar Streets, where Latch's Grocery is located now. Frank Williams had operated this store. Clinton McCormick purchased it about 1931. Clint is standing behind the counter to the left, and Cobert Lugar, his clerk, to the right.

wife, Dorothy, operate a grocery store and sell gasoline. Over the years the old building served as a gathering place for the village men who were interested in spending their leisure time in playing dominoes, cards, pool and swapping tall yarns about the old days.

#### Harness And Saddle Shops

The harness maker was an indispensable person in early Stewardson. In addition to harnesses and saddles, some of the later harness makers expanded into selling wagons, farm implements, wire and other necessary items for the farm. They not only sold and repaired leather goods, but made most of their products, as well. Some of the earliest known shops were: E. E. Barnes & Co., L. A. Barnes Harness Shop, Jacob Hebel, and the Main Street Harness Shop. Later and better known harness makers were Bill Milligan and C. A. Ragel.

Apparently the E. E. Barnes & Co. and the shop of Jacob Hebel were the earliest harness businesses in town and operated during the 1870's. Soon after the start of the 1880's, Jacob Hebel discontinued his harness shop and con-

tinued as a barber. During the latter 1880's he moved to Effingham, Ill. and started in the harness business once again. L. A. Barnes operated his business during the 1880's and probably the 1890's. He was manufacturer of Harness, Collars, Saddles and Whips. The Main Street Harness Shop was run

through the 1880's by John Streng and Louis C. Henne. They dissolved their partnership in Jan. of 1888, when Mr. Henne moved to Strasburg. Mr. Streng continued operating the shop for a few years. This could have been the fore-runner of Bill Milligan's Harness Shop in the 1890's and early 1900's.

Bill Milligan's Harness Shop was located in a two story frame building next to the old Brummerstedt building. The second story of this building was used as the first telephone office in 1902. Mr. Milligan remodeled the second floor into living quarters for his family after the telephone office was moved to North Pine St. In addition to the usual items found in a harness shop, he also sold wagons, buggies, fencing and some general hardware. It is believed that this business was discontinued by the end of World War I.

Some of our older citizens think that Mr. Milligan started out in business with C. A. Ragel someplace on North Pine St., before moving to Main Street. Charles A. (Shorty) Ragel was the last harness maker in the Village of Stewardson. Most people remember his shop when it was located in the old Hoffman Block Building on South Pine Street. He was located there from the early 1900's until the early 1940's. Mr. Ragel and his family lived in the third house in the second block of South Pine.

#### J. D. Wilson Farm Implements

Mr. Wilson originally opened business as a proprietor of a livery stable in 1876. By 1878 he had changed from the



This is a picture of an Implement Store and Harness Shop in Stewardson operated by Wm. A. Milligan. The exact location and the names of the men are not known for sure, but we think it was on the south side of West Main Street.

livery business to farm implements under the name of J. D. Wilson Co. This business was located somewhere in the block of North Pine, east of the Wabash Railroad. (Some people think it may have been just north of the present location of Falk's Produce). This company was the agent in this area for the Walter Reaper, Climax Combine Reaper and Mower, and the Mitchell Wagon. Wilson also sold Sulky Plows, Walking Plows, Brown corn planters, Dickey corn drills, a variety of cultivators, hay forks, Patent Rubber Buckets, chain pumps, wood pumps and poke yokes.

**Duensing Wagon Shop**



This is Henry Duensing, one of the first wagon makers in Stewardson. His shop stood where Springer Chevrolet is now, 109 E. Main St.

He was Harold Ulmer's grandfather. The label in the picture which isn't shown was "The Only" Studio W. L. Howell, Proprietor, Stewardson, Ill. so apparently this would have been one of the first photography Studios in Stewardson.

Henry and Minnie Friese Duensing, the grandparents of Harold Ulmer, were very early settlers in early Stewardson. Mr. Duensing established a wagon shop during the 1870's on the location of Springer Chevrolet Company. He built and repaired most of the wagons and buggies that were used throughout the 1870's and 1880's. They built their home in the second block of East Main St. just east of the original location of the Tate Oliver Sales. Mr. Duensing's old shop was razed in the early 1900's and Henry Ulmer replaced it with a new brick warehouse for his agriculture implements. This site was used through the years as a poultry house, a garage, and Chevrolet Dealership for Harold Ulmer, Bryon Graham, Herbert Schultz and Lynn Springer.

S. S. Bolles ran a wagon shop next door to Church's Blacksmith Shop. Apparently he started in business during the 1880's and continued through the 1890's making wagons and buggies. Later, possibly around 1907 or a little later, Floyd Miller took over the old wagon shop and ran it for a number of years. Mr. Bolles was an old Civil War Veteran. He enlisted in the 13th U.S. Infantry, Co. "C" during the year of 1864 and served in the Army until 1867.

#### NEWSPAPERS

The Stewardson Enterprise was the first known paper published in the village, on press and type brought here from Altamont by M. A. Bates, June 7, 1878. He continued the paper for one year, then A. M. Anderson and H. Martin purchased it. Three months later, Anderson sold out to C. D. Shumard and the paper continued under the firm name of Harry Martin and Co. In December of 1879, A. M. again took over the "Stewardson Enterprise." The Enterprise was a six-column folio with a healthy circulation. It is thought the Enterprise building was located on the lot between the present day bank building and Springer Chevrolet building on East Main Street.

Some say there was a paper known as the Stewardson Advocate for a brief period of time just before the Clipper came into existence. No official record of this paper has been found. However, some of our oldest citizens claim to remember seeing the sign and building on East Main when they were children. Tom Graybill was believed to be the publisher.

William H. Fagan and Zip Wilson published the first Stewardson Clip-



This is a wedding picture of Will and Anna Milligan taken in the 1800's. It shows the fashions of the time.

per, Sept. 16, 1887 for \$1.00 per year in advance. Wilson stepped out of the business in a few months and Fagan developed it into a paying business. He operated the publishing business until March 12, 1912, when he traded it to John W. Bailey for a 40-acre farm in Prairie Township. He also owned real estate in Stewardson.

In 1888, Fagan married Mrs. Elizabeth Newman, daughter of Charles and Margarette Didda.

The Clipper was named after the largest sailing vessel that made regular trips from England to the Atlantic Sea Board. The ship brought glad tidings, new styles, new merchandise, and news from relatives to the New England States. It was a grand and glorious event when the Clipper vessel arrived and today the subscribers of the Stewardson Clipper look forward to its arrival each week.

In 1916, Mr. Bailey hired a teenager, Mr. J. Edwin Hoyer as an assistant, who remained with him until he issued his last edition May 30, 1928. Mr. H. C. Franklin took over as publisher and editor until July 10, 1928, at which time, J. Edwin Hoyer purchased the Clipper franchise, building and Lot 6 of Block 11. On July 12, 1928 Mr. Hoyer published issue No. 1 Volume 42 of the Stewardson Clipper and continued pub-

lishing until March 1, 1963.

Mrs. Mabelle M. Ryan of Beecher City, Illinois, purchased the Clipper franchise and rights with Asel J. Ryan, Jr. and Mary Florian Ryan, managing editors. Their first publication was dated March 7, 1963 under the name Stewardson Clipper but was printed in the Beecher City Journal plant and is still operating as of this date.

#### STEWARDSON SHIPPING ASS'N.

The Stewardson Shipping Association was organized by a group of farmers with Wm. Moomaw as manager in 1920. The purpose of this group was to find a market for high quality eggs that were produced locally. A premium market was found in New York City and at one time over one hundred thirty dozen cases of eggs were shipped by train every week.

This business was started in the Fred Gruntman building where Beals Body Shop is now located. Also livestock was shipped weekly to the East St. Louis Ill. yards, at times two and three carloads. There was a demand for feed for animals and flour for bread-making, so carloads of mixed feed were ordered and sold at a small profit. Many of the large families bought flour a barrel at a time.

In 1928 with the coming of tractors, the association began buying oil and gasoline under the management of Wm. Moomaw finally moving to

Shelbyville and becoming Shelby Service Co., then developing into a statewide cooperative.

In 1945 Wm. Moomaw bought the feed and seed business at Stewardson and in partnership with Leota Ulmer, formed Moomaw Elevator Co., built two elevators with 50,000 bu. capacity and operated until 1958. The business sold to the Effingham Equity. They in turn added more capacity and a feed mill and are operating it today.

#### Cherry Pickins and Cider Squeezin'

One of the largest, and almost forgotten businesses of Prairie Township was apple pickin' and cider makin'. There were a large number of orchards in the vicinity of Stewardson in the latter 1800's and early 1900's. Charles Friesse, Fred Bruns, Clinton McCormick, and Nehring and Briedow were some of the well-known nursery men.

The prairie nursery men, Nehring and Briedow, developed one of the most reliable nurseries in this part of the state during the 1880's and 1890's. They were true craftsmen who had learned their skills in the old country. Their skill in tree grafting has only been matched in this modern day. Their orchard was one mile west of Route 32, on the Neoga road. Sonny Rosine and Ray Richards now own the site of the old orchard. They ran a beautifully landscaped country side covered with trees and vines that produced apples, grapes, cherries, pears, peaches, and

pecans. The orchard was enclosed with one of the largest hedge fences in this part of the country. They discontinued their orchard business some time after 1900 and sold trees for Starks until about the end of World War I.

Charles Friesse ran a large orchard northwest of Stewardson from the early 1880's though the early 1900's. Many people still remember the old Cider Mill on his town property. Charles Friesse's cider mill was located north of the present Carl Lugar home on North Pine Street. People brought apples by the wagon load to have cider made. Many times the wagons were lined up past the present bank. Some would leave part of their apples to pay for making cider.

Mr. Fred Bruns ran a smaller operation south of Stewardson on "Vinegar Hill". Mr. Bruns raised both apples and cherries and is remembered for the good quality of vinegar that he used to produce. Mrs. Grace Boldt now lives on the site of the old "Vinegar Hill" orchard.

Mr. Clinton McCormick planted a forty acre apple orchard near the Sigel Road in 1925. During the peak years of production this orchard produced 10,000 bushels of apples. These apples were loaded onto a Wabash freight car and sent to some Southern State. In addition to his orchard business, Mr. McCormick sold fruit trees and did landscaping for Stark Bros. Nursery. He discontinued the orchard business in the early 1960's.

#### MILLS

Wm. Stewardson, Wilhelm, and Douthit operated a mill in 1874. It is believed this mill was constructed on South Pine Street just south of where Oscar Kessler's house now stands. By 1878, Mr. John Fankboner was hired as proprietor of the mill. They bought wheat and corn from the local farmers and sold flour and corn meal to the public. Cash was not very plentiful in those days and Mr. Fankboner readily exchanged flour and meal for wheat. The farmers could also buy chopped-feed, shorts, and bran to feed their livestock. Shorts and bran was the residue from the flour milling process. The bran was the brown outer half that was taken off the wheat before it was ground into flour. The ground inner kernel of the wheat was sifted through a silk screen and the residue that did not go through the screen was called shorts. It was used mainly to make slop for hogs. The part

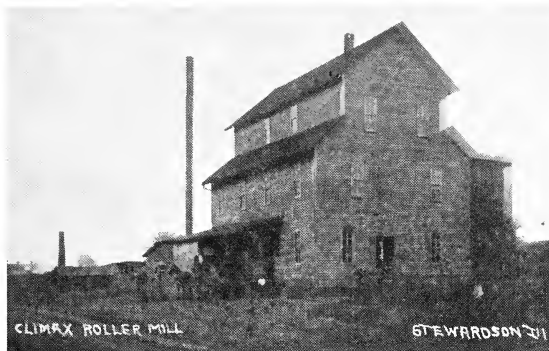


This is a picture taken in either 1915 or 1916 of the Cloverleaf Railroad stock pens and loading chute. These were located on the south side of the tracks between Spruce and Pine Streets.

At that time all of the livestock that was shipped out of town went by train so that this stockyard and one on the Wabash tracks were busy places.

The girls weren't identified.





that went through the screen was the flour.

Mr. Fankboner was well liked in the Village of Stewardson and is still remembered by some of the older citizens. John Fankboner was known throughout Shelby County as the Stewardson miller, until Mr. Swingle purchased the mill in the mid 1880's. He hired Mr. J. Taylor Coffman as his miller, and Mr. Kinzie Karriek. The mill, under Mr. Swingle's direction, prospered to the point where it was running day and night. He began a program of improvement in 1887, by replacing the old grinding burrs with rollers. Crushing the wheat and corn between rollers rather than the grinding action of the burr was supposed to produce a better quality of flour. Three rollers were installed to crush wheat and three rollers were installed to crush the corn. The corn roller was something very new in this part of the county and the nearest mill with corn rollers was located in Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. James B. Singer purchased the mill around 1894 and began a construction program to enlarge the mill during that year. Prior to Mr. Singer's ownership the mill was a rather small structure. The picture of the mill, known as the Climax Roller Mill, is how it appeared after Mr. Singer enlarged it. The power for the mill was a steam engine and the old mill pond provided the water supply.

Mr. Arthur Roley and Mr. John N. Patterson bought the mill and Mr. Roley then sold his interest to Mr. Patterson. He continued to operate the mill until it was destroyed by

fire in 1912.

The old mill pond is a fond memory of many people of Stewardson who would gather there on a cold winter night for an evening of ice skating in their teenage years. It was the meeting place for Stewardson's young and many a romance was both kindled and thawed there.

Mr. Swingle lived in a square two story house on the N. E. corner of Vine and North First Street where William Arnold now lives. Many people remember Mr. Frank Williams, a Stewardson businessman, and would be interested to know that he was Mr. Swingle's son-in-law. In fact, Mr. Williams later made his residence in the same house.

A second flour mill was built on North Pine Street sometime after the old Climax Roller Mill burned in 1912. This stood on the site now occupied by Lowell (Pode) Moomaw's Trucking Co. This was a small mill that produced only 50 barrels of flour a day. The mill was operated with a diesel engine. In order to start the engine it was necessary to heat the plug with a blow torch. Sometimes it would take a half day to get the engine started. Mr. Ed. Reynolds built the mill. Mr. Beiber was one of the better known people who operated the mill. Mr. F. F. Yakey ran the mill in the mid-twenties and was the last person to produce flour in the old mill. It stood vacant for a number of years until Bill and Oliver Moomaw opened it in the early 1930's, and conducted a feed grinding business. The mill was closed again and then Mr. Oliver Moomaw once again ground feed

through the latter 1940's and 50's. This mill was destroyed by fire around 1960.

Fred Gruntman also ran a feed grinding mill around 1914 on North Pine Street approximately where Beals Motor Co. Body Shop is now located.

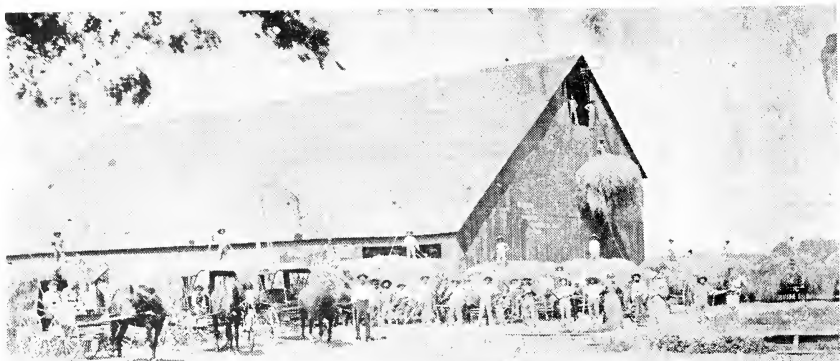
#### VORIS ENTERPRISES

George Washington Voris was born in Bath, Ohio on November 11, 1850, the son of Peter and Julia Voris. George's mother died soon after the family moved to Mattoon, Illinois in 1857. Young George then went to live with his sister in Iowa. He attended Fallsey Seminary in Fulton, New York for two years and then returned to Illinois. Mr. Voris was a store clerk in Windsor, Illinois prior to moving to Stewardson in 1874. He built a grain office in Stewardson during February of 1874 and became a member of the Firm of Gould and Voris Grain Buyers. He married Margaret Pfleger in 1875. This union was followed with the birth of five children. Mr. Voris quickly became a leading citizen in the new Village of Stewardson and his home became the center of the social life in the community.

In addition to his grain business, Mr. Voris worked as the station agent for the Wabash Railroad from 1874 to 1877 and began dealing in the sale of livestock. A line of agricultural implements was added to his business by the latter part of 1870. His advertisement in the June 22, 1878 Enterprise indicated that Mr. Voris sold all types of Agricultural Implements from shovel plows to threshing machines.

Voris and Gould began in the buying and selling of hay in 1881.

Mr. Gould withdrew from the business relationship in 1889 and the Firm was renamed G. W. Voris and Company. The company did business at Lerna, Trilla, Kingman, Fancher, Herick, Herborn and Stewardson. This company would buy the hay standing in the field. He would then send a crew of men to cut the hay and haul it to town on wagons. None of the workers wanted to be the last one back in town at the end of the day so they would often engage themselves in a race with the last loads of hay. A big steam engine was used to pull a long rope that hauled the hay from the wagon up into the large hay barn in the southeast part of town. After it had cured the hay was baled by steam balers and then shipped south to New Orleans on the Wabash Railroad. Most of the hay



**Herborn Hay Barn**

This picture shows local farmers unloading their hay in this large hay barn in Herborn. It stood beside the Wa-

bash Railroad Tracks. The hay was put in loose during the harvest season and then was baled in the winter time and loaded into railroad (box cars) for shipment to market.

People who can remember this barn say that the baler was powered by a steam engine that also furnished power for a track for the bales to move out to the cars on.

was sold either to the big race tracks in New Orleans or shipped on to Cuba. The Voris hay barn was located just south of the Lutheran School. It is said that it was the largest building of its kind in the county. The old hay barn was 88 feet wide, 144 feet long, and 57 feet high. It was supposed to have held 12,000 tons of loose hay.

The horse drawn baler became popular around the turn of the century and most farms started baling their hay in the field. The huge old hay barn was no longer needed and fell into disuse. Mr. Voris built a smaller hay barn just east of the present day Beals Body Shop, on East North 1st Street, to handle baled hay. Though small in comparison to the old barn, this new building would accommodate 1,000 tons of baled hay.

Mr. Voris also owned approximately eleven hundred acres of land. Some of this land was located northwest of Fancher along the Okaw River. This Farm was known far and wide as "Sugarville", because of the acres and acres of sugar maples.

Jack Bridges operated the Voris Plantation during the 1880's and was known as the "Sugar Maker." Mr. R. A. Peters and his parents lived on this farm from 1892 until 1900 and assisted in making maple syrup. They would tap the maple trees in late February or early March by drilling a hole into the

tree and inserting a hollow piece of sassafras for a spigot to drain the sap. The maple sap was hauled in barrels on a sled to the sugar camp. The sap was then poured into a kettle over a hot fire. After a certain amount of liquid was boiled away, the sap was poured into a second kettle. The process was completed after a third time and the resi-

due left after the third cooking was maple syrup. The cooking down process would start in the early morning and continue until about midnight. During this period of time, 30 gallons of sap would be turned into approximately 6 gallons of maple syrup. The syrup was jugged and sold through the local stores.



This elevator stood where the water tower stands now. G. W. Voris, one of the first business men in town, built this elevator.

## CUSTOM THRESHING

Anthony Vonderheide and his oldest son, Albert Vonderheide, started custom threshing in 1920. They did threshing for a 50 mile radius of their farm home, located two miles south of Stewardson.

The first steam engine used was a 16 horse powered Case and a 32 inch Aultman Taylor Separator. The steam engine was run by Albert and in addition to threshing was used for filling silos, grading roads, pulling hedge, and at one time was used to move the old Mound School. The school was moved August 11, 1927 to Clinton Mc Cormick's orchard.

In 1931 Albert purchased a 30-35 Allis Chalmers tractor to be used during the winter, in Stewardson, to grind feed. The business was located for a time behind Charlie Mietzner's Store and then later moved to Fred Gruntman's Building. Albert said that he ground whole wheat for whole wheat bread and regular corn for corn bread. This was done



during the depression.

In 1933 Albert purchased a 24-40 Allis Chalmers tractor and Huber 32 Special Separator. He now owned two complete rigs and operated them for 20 years on his own.

Altogether Albert Vonderheide was a Custom Threshing Operator for 45 years.

He is still the proud owner of the 25-40 Allis Chalmers tractor and the Huber 32 inch Special Separator.

## The Butcher — The Baker — But No Candlestick Maker

### MEAT MARKETS

Meat products from the old packing plant and Jake Kull's slaughter house were sold through a number of meat markets throughout Stewardson's history. Some of the meat markets had their own slaughter houses and just butchered enough for their local trade.

One of the earliest meat markets was run by J. W. Carick, one door south of Robinson's drug store. This shop was opened in the latter 1870's and early 1880's. This was the forerunner of the shop later run by Butch Kull and Fred Milchman in later years. Temperley and Company opened the second meat market in the Village of Stewardson during September, 1878. This shop was operated west of J. D. Wilson's Grain Office on North Pine Street. Mr. Free joined William Temperley in 1887 and they moved their business to the old Wo.f Building, Kitty corner from the present day Latch's Grocery Store. Free and Temperley did their own butchering and claimed to pay the highest market prices for fat cattle and hogs. Of course they claimed to sell meat cheaper than anyone else, too. In addition to selling meat, they also bought lard, eggs, hides, pelts and furs.

Jacob F. Kull bought out Carick's Butcher Shop sometime during the early 1880's and built a business that lasted until 1953. Mr. Kull continued

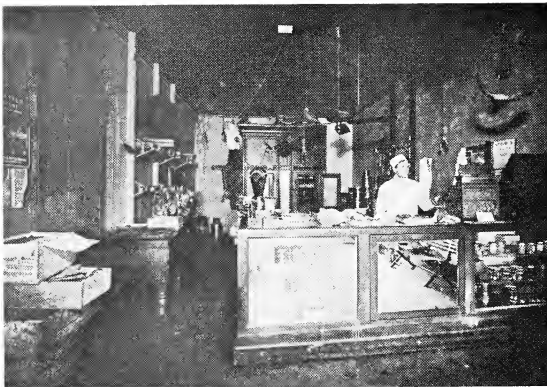
his shop on South Pine and butchered his animals in a small shed just east of the Stewardson Packing Plant.

A young lad of 13 came to Stewardson in 1891 and made his home with Mr. and

Mrs. Kull. Fred Milchman learned the meat trade from Mr. Kull and followed in his footsteps in the same old shop. Fred Milchman also ran a meat wagon during the early 1900's and made regu-



A picture of Fred Milchman's first meat market. He had a marble top counter. Mr. Milchman usually had stuffed animals and birds on shelves along the walls of his market. You can see a hornet's nest in the picture. Mr. Milchman is standing behind the counter. Standing, left to right: Sol Leffler, Frank Hoese, and Ed Baumgarten.



This is a picture taken of the inside of Mr. Fred Milchman's Store in later years. This was his first meat case and walk-in cooler. To the left are boxes of dried fruit. There was no heat in this shop. The alligator hide was donated by Dode Powell.

lar deliveries every week to Strasburg and Shumway. This was an old spring wagon, with a large ice chest loaded with meat. A bell on the wagon would announce the arrival of the "meat man" as the horses walked down the street, and the housewives would come out to buy. "Ole Whisker on the Moon" usually drove the wagon on deliveries. Later years Paul Milchman inherited this job. Business increased and Mr. Milchman needed more space for his business. He moved the old shop one half of a lot south and built a new building next to the drug store. The new building was used for meat and he put a stock of groceries in the old building. In 1926 Mr. Milchman built a new brick building on the north side of West Main Street. Milchman operated a meat and grocery business in the center of the building and leased out the east side to Mrs. Maggie Beals for a hat shop. He moved back to the old location in 1931 and continued, until selling to his son, Howard, in 1947. They closed the shop in 1949 and moved to Effingham. Fred Milchman did not find retirement to his liking and returned to the meat trade during 1948 in the old Floyd Whitacre Building. He then built a new brick shop on South Pine Street in 1950 and conducted his business in that shop until he sold out to Mrs. Grace Falk in 1953. Mrs. Falk ran a dry goods store in the building for several years until it became known as the Railroad Sal-

vage Store.

Fred Milchman ran the last bonafide butcher shop in Stewardson. He married Lowena Yak in 1902 and they lived in the house now owned by Ervin Friesse. Mr. and Mrs. Milchman had a family of four children. Howard lives in Effingham, Illinois and Oscar lives on a farm outside of Stewardson.

#### BAKERIES

Charles Moldanke opened his city bakery and restaurant on South Pine Street in 1878. It was the third business house from the corner in Block 10. Apparently the bakery occupied the rear quarters of the building and the restaurant was located in the front of the building. Mr. and Mrs. Moldanke lived on the second floor. In addition to his bakery products, Mr. Moldanke sold groceries, jewelry, candy, cigars, smoking and chewing tobacco, ice cream, lemonade, cider and served meals at all hours. Bread was certainly cheap in those days in comparison to present day prices. The cost of wheat was approximately \$2.00 per bushel and Mr. Moldanke sold his bread for 5¢ per loaf. Today wheat sells for approximately \$5.00 per bushel and the price of bread is about 50¢ a loaf.

Charles Moldanke is well remembered by some of our older citizens as an outstanding personality in early

Stewardson. Mr. Moldanke was a huge man with a great dislike for practical jokes. He was between 6½ feet and 7 feet tall, large in girth and sufficiently endowed with feet to support his bulk. The "Old Timers" liked to think that his feet were a special asset necessary to his trade. Rumor states that he mixed the bread dough with his feet. In all probability this is a rumor that was started by the village boys. It was great sport, in those days, to tease Mr. Moldanke and to gloat him into chasing them down the street with his infamous cheese knife. The story of his colorful personality would not be complete without the tale of his trials with the shoemaker's geese.

Mr. Adolph Peter's geese roamed at will over the southern part of the business district. One of the favorable daily resting places was on top of Mr. Moldanke's well at the rear of his building. Needless to say these geese infuriated the baker to no end. One day Mr. Peter's geese disappeared. The mystery of the geese was the subject of conversation of the town's people for several months. The mystery was solved when the people saw young Otto Zerr running down the street at full tilt. He had just played a trick on Mr. Moldanke. The old baker was in hot pursuit, swinging his cheese knife in the air and shouting, "I'll make off mit your head like Peter's geese. Mr. Moldanke had caught the geese on his well, grabbed them one by one, cut off their heads and disposed of the evidence.

Dr. Ingram bought the old bakery shop near the turn of the century. He leased out the bakery and his son, Harry, ran a restaurant in the front of the building for a few years. Wilford Temperly bought the restaurant business soon after 1900 and continued to run it until World War I. Through the latter part of the teens and the 1920's the old building housed a broom factory. The building and broom factory were destroyed by fire in the late 1920's or early 1930's. The present day Salvage Store now occupies the site of the old bakery and broom factory.

The City Bakery was followed in later years by three other bakeries. J. F. Finneran operated a bakery around 1914. This business was located in a small concrete block building between the Hoffman Business Building and the Wabash tracks. Fred Milchman's son-in-law, Frank Mohler, ran the Stewardson Bakery during the

late 1920's. The Stewardson Bakery was located near the center of Block 10 on South Pine Street. The third bakery was located on the south side of West Main St., just east of the present day Depot Sample Store. Mr. Levi Blyth ran this bakery during the 1930's. Apparently this was the last bakery to operate in the Village of Stewardson.

### TAILORS

August Gritzmaker, the Stewardson tailor, provided suits for Stewardson's early business men and cloth to cover Stewardson's young with homemade clothing. Many a mother went into "Old Gus's" shop to buy a piece of left-over cloth that would make a pair of pants for a son or a dress for a daughter.

Apparently Mr. Gritzmaker arrived in Stewardson in the late 1870's or early 1880's. His shop was located in an upstairs room on South Pine Street, just south of Mr. F. X. Gress's furniture store. Some people can still remember the old tailor, sitting cross-legged on his counter top, sewing away for hours on end. Later on, probably in the late 1890's or early 1900's he built a new brick shop on North Pine Street, next to Falk Produce. Many people who remember Mr. Gritzmaker said he appeared to be an old man in the 1890's. He was a friendly man with "a hump" in his back.

Mr. Gritzmaker and his wife lived on lot ten in the second block on North Spruce Street until his death. The last person to live in this house was Mrs. Hattie Bales. This house was torn down in 1967. The house was built out of rough sawn cottonwood lumber and put together with old square hand made nails.

Although Mr. Gritzmaker was a hard working man, he was also a sociable person who enjoyed a bit of relaxation and fun. Many times, some of the local business men would meet in his shop after work for a bit of conversation and a game of chance across the old counter top. The men had their regular nights and the games always stopped promptly at 10:00 p.m. Although Mr. Gritzmaker had no children and usually worked long hours, he was still known as a man who valued family life. He would stop work promptly at 7:00 p.m., regardless of the amount of work to complete, in

order to enjoy life and his home.

By the time Mr. Gritzmaker closed his shop, demand for a tailor was diminishing in the village. More and more people were buying their clothes "ready-made" or going to be "measured up" for a "mail order suit."

Mr. Gritzmaker was followed by a young tailor, Will Walker. It is thought Mr. Walker started in business in the early or mid-teens. Mr. Walker combined a tailor shop and a dry cleaning business in the old Hoffman block building on West Main Street. His shop was located about where the beauty shop is now, just west of the post office. Walker continued his business through the 1920's and then moved to Decatur in the early 1930's. Mr. Walker was apparently the last tailor in Stewardson.

### SHOEMAKERS

Mr. A. Peters is thought to have been the first shoemaker in Stewardson. Mr. Peters came from Hiddellberg, Germany to Prairie Township via the way of Chicago. Mr. R. A. Peters, a long time resident and business man of Stewardson, was the grandson of A. Peters. The old shoemaker lived in a large house on the Southeast corner of Cedar St. and South 1st Street. Mr. Otto Zerr later bought the property and built the brick house that now stands there. Apparently Mr. Peters shoe shop was located in the rear part of his home. One of the early Barbers, Charlie Reynold, had a shop occupying a part of Mr. Peters shoe shop. It is thought that Mr. A. Peters died in Stewardson and he is at rest in the Village Cemetery. Some of the older generations think that Mr. Peters died soon after Fred Simmering became a shoemaker in Stewardson.

Mr. Fred Simmering, the Stewardson shoe maker opened a shop on the N. W. corner of South Pine and 1st South Street on the southern edge of the present business district. It is estimated that Mr. Simmering opened his business in the 1880's and continued in business until about 1907. The shop was located in part of the building and the family had living quarters in the rear of the building. Mr. Simmering moved his shop to the north part of Stewardson, remodeled it into a dwelling, and lived there until his death during the teens. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Matthews now live in the old Simmering home. Mr. Simmering was a friendly

man of medium height and extremely heavy frame who seemed to enjoy a good joke, like so many other men of early Stewardson. Just before Halloween, Mr. Simmering was working late in his shop and talking with a customer when a bunch of boys started Halloweening his shop. Mr. Simmering asked the customer to hammer on the shoe for him. In the meantime Mr. Simmering grabbed the large bucket of water that was used for soaking leather, slipped out the back door, and crawled upon the roof of his shop. The surprised boys agreed that the treat was far worse than the trick and Mr. Simmering was in a very jovial mood the rest of the evening.

William Richards apparently was another long time business man in the Village of Stewardson. He had a shoe shop between Keller's store and the Wabash tracks in 1878. It is thought that he ran a grocery store some place in Stewardson during the latter 1880's. We think this is the same Mr. Richards who ran a shoe shop sometime between 1910 and 1918 in a little brick building on the site of Beals Motor Co. Mr. Richards was called "Peg" because of a wooden peg leg. In addition to repairing shoes, Mr. Richards also made fiddles.

### BLACKSMITHS

#### Poem To George Zalman

It was the year of 1874—  
George, the Smithy had opened  
his door;

At this time he was young and  
strong  
And always went to work in early morn.

The bellows blew and the anvil  
rang  
The Smithy whistled and sometimes  
sang.

Time goes on and on and on—  
Horses shod with hand made  
tongs;

He made new things and fixed  
the old  
And always was jolly, so I am  
told.

Stewardson was started this  
same year  
The Wabash Railroad finish was near.

63 years have long since  
passed  
And no more use for horseshoe rasp.

The carriage and buggy we

had to wean,  
For everything now runs on gasoline.

So in celebrating your birthday  
this time  
Think of the things in this little  
rhyme.

And may you have more birthdays  
in your life,  
Also the companionship of your  
good wife.

Written by Walter V. Beals for Mr.  
George Zalman's 83rd birthday on  
Dec. 20, 1937.

#### George Zalman

Mr. George Zalman was an early resident, businessman, and village official in Stewardson. He was truly the village blacksmith from the mid 1870's into the 1920's. Mr. Zalman's shop was located in a small building just east of the present Stewardson National Bank, on the south side of the street in the first block on east main. He later built a small barber shop for his son between the blacksmith shop and the bank. There were several barbers located in this shop over the years, including a Mr. Shoemaker. Orphis Robey continued in business there until the latter 1940's or 1950. He then built a new brick home on the corner of Pine and 1st. South St. on the location of Simmering's old shoe shop.

#### Wm. McDaniel & Son

A new blacksmith shop in early 1878 belonged to Wm. McDaniel and Son. It appears that his shop was located on the North side of East Main. It could well be that he may have been located where Emanuel Smith later ran a blacksmith shop on the location of Beals Motor Co. Mr. McDaniels repaired buggies, wagons, and farm implements, and specialized in gun repair. Mr. McDaniel served as Village President prior to 1878. Early in 1879 Mr. McDaniels expanded his business and added a Livery and Feed Stable. This may have been the stable started by J. B. Turner.

#### George (Short) Mechling

George (Short) Mechling came to Stewardson in 1916 and started a blacksmith shop in an old building purchased from Charlie Mietzner. The Bone Bros. had run a blacksmith



This building stood just east of where the Bank is now. George Zalman had his blacksmith shop in the left part of this building, and there was a barber shop in the right side.

George was one of the first businessmen in Stewardson and built a house at 213 East Main Street. Wayne Huffmaster lives there now. Steve Baumgarten remodeled it several years ago.

Several barbers operated a shop in this building before it was torn down a few years ago. Some of them were Walker's and Robey's.

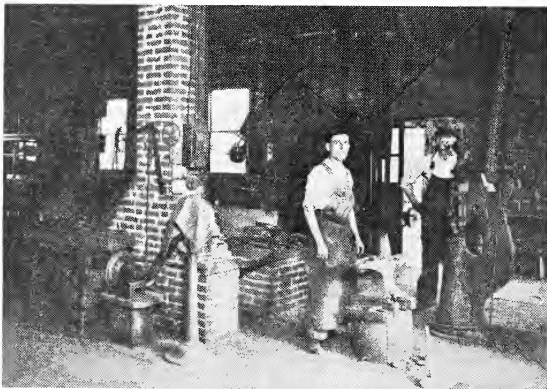
shop there also. He later constructed a new brick shop on the same location in 1922. This new building is

now used as the fire station. He then closed his shop in 1932 and worked as a blacksmith for the Oliver Company in Shelbyville, Illinois for 14 years. "Short" then built a shop at his home on North Spruce. Mr. Mechling died in 1959.

Many people no doubt still remember the spring wagon that "Short" built.

#### Emanuel Smith

Emanuel Smith ran a blacksmith shop in a small old one story shack on the north side of East Main Street where the Beals Motor Co. is now located. In the 1880's Mr. Smith's shop was a favorite place for boys to play. Some of the people recall that Smith was a likeable old gent who took a liking to children. Mr. Smith had two sons, Joe and Fred. Joe left town but Fred remained in Stewardson until his death. Fred Smith worked for years at Johnson's Creamery. Mr. Smith lived the first house west of the old Christian Church. He later built the house where Richard Stremming now lives on the north side of East First North Street. Mr. Smith died soon after retiring and moving into his new house. Most of the people who remember Mr. Smith recall that he was



This is a picture of the inside of George Mechling's Blacksmith Shop. Mr. Mechling built this building on South Cedar (the Firehouse now). It was the most modern blacksmith shop in this part of Illinois. Mr. Mechling was a very good blacksmith and did a big business shoeing horses. Left to right, George Mechling and John Manhart.

almost too old to work when they were boys.

### Omer Church

Omer Church ran a blacksmith shop and electric shop near the present site of Lake Paul on South Pine Street from the mid 1890's to the 1920's. He moved to Arthur and worked for the Monroe Grader Co. This Company sold out to the "Cat" tractor co. His shop was in a prime location between the Farmers Co-op Creamery and S. S. Bolles wagon shop. The farmers would always

stop at Mr. Church's shop for repair work when they brought their milk to town. Mr. Church did electrical work in later years and was always trying to invent something. One of his inventions was a "key set" machine and through backing by the local citizens Mr. Church got his invention patented. However, another company saw his "key set" machine, made a small change in the machine, also receiving a patent thus making Mr. Church's machine outdated.

During the early 1900's Omer Church and Ed Ruff built an auto-

mobile. This early car looked like a buck board wagon with high wheels and fenders. The 2 cylinder engine was mounted under the wagon box and a chain (bike chain) drive turned the wheels. Mr. S. S. Bolles made the wheels for the car.

Church's blacksmith shop was a favorite loafing place for many of the village men and farmers. Many a good time was had in the old shop. Mr. Church had all of the chairs and benches wired with electric current and many of the older citizens recall getting the surprising shock of their life in Church's old shop.

## Credits and Debits

### Banks

There were no banks in early Stewardson and some of the banking functions were met by individuals. John Tull and others met these needs for capital by loaning money to the business men for interest.

The first bank was known as "The Stewardson Bank." It was organized December 1, 1892 by David Mautz and A. C. Mautz. A. T. Collison was president, David Mautz, cashier, and A. C. Mautz later became cashier. It was located in a frame building on lot 6, block 3, at 108 West Main. It was moved to a two story brick building, built in 1893 by George W. Voris, better known as the Opera Hall. The bank was located in one room of the first story of the southeast corner where the restaurant is now. Mr. Voris used the back third of the room for his grain office at this location. In the year 1909, the bank reorganized and became "The First National Bank of Stewardson" with A. C. Mautz as president and Lett McDonald as cashier. The bank was moved to a new two-story brick building on the southeast corner of South Pine and Main in 1912.

In the spring of 1907 Charles W. Wilson and others organized the "Farmers and Merchants Bank" with Charles W. Wilson as president, John L. Becker, vice-president, and R. A. Peters, cashier. The directors were R. E. Cecil, T. N. Robison, Dr. J. N. Phifer, M. D., Henry H. Ulmer, and William Rozene. The bank was located in the east room of a building on lots 1 and 2, block 9, just east of the present Depot Store, and began business June 27, 1907. In 1909, they moved into the room on the northeast corner of the newly erected concrete block building known as the Hoffman Block.

In 1915, the First National Bank absorbed the interests of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and continued operating under the name "First National Bank of Stewardson." After the merger, a new board of directors and new officers were appointed with A. C. Mautz as president, G. G. Bartscht, vice-president, T. H. Bauer, cashier, and Irvin Rozene, assistant cashier. The board of directors were George W. Voris, F. T. Engel, William Frede, C. F. Rincker, G. G. Bartscht, and A. C. Mautz.

On Monday, April 30, 1928, the First National Bank closed. It was reorganized and chartered under the name of Stewardson National Bank and reopened for business August 4, 1928. Albert Mietzner was president, Henry Fritz, vice-president, Edwin H. FASTER, cashier, and Miss Eva Falk, bookkeeper.

The directors were Albert Mietzner, W. H. Weber, William A. Denn, William Krumreich, Charles Mietzner, Jr., Henry Fritz, H. H. York, Jr., J. E. Falk, and Edwin H. FASTER.

In March 1933, all banks of the nation were closed for audit and appraisal. Many of the closed banks were never permitted to reopen for business and the many that were permitted to reopen were under strict and rigid regulations. The Stewardson National Bank was permitted to reopen, free from regulations, and was, and is, the only National Bank in the county.

The bank was again closed for a short interval, Tuesday, August 28, 1934, at twelve noon. During the interim, some minor adjustments were made. William Krumreich was elected president, and the bank opened as usual at 9:00 A.M. Wednesday, August 29, 1934.



A picture of opening day of the First National Bank of Stewardson in 1912.

During the years there have been some changes in the presidents. William Krumreich was followed by William H. Weber, William A. Denn, and Ray A. Richards, the president at this time. The bank purchased the twenty-five by fifty foot premises adjacent to the bank to the south from John Manhart in 1959. The south addition was built and, at the same time, the front and north outside walls were modernized. Extensive interior remodeling was done, giving us the beautiful modern bank we now have.

#### Stewardson Homestead Loan Association

Scott Lowery, T. P. Mautz, Emanuel Smith, Jacob S. Wilkerson, and Peter Diddlea, as commissioners, made application for articles of incorporation as the Stewardson Homestead Loan Association. The association was incorporated March 13, 1883.

The first officers were F. X. Gress, president, Emanuel Smith, vice-president, T. P. Mautz, secretary, T. N. Robison, treasurer, and W. C. Headen, attorney. Stock was issued in series with the first series issued on April 1, 1883. Dues were fifteen cents per week. On April 1, 1885, there were 388 outstanding shares and on March 31, 1973, there were 1,533 outstanding shares.

Officers, as of March 31, 1973, were Harold H. Ulmer, president, A. Wayne

Moomaw, vice-president, Ray Richards, secretary - treasurer, and Baker & Baker, attorneys. The directors were Wayne Huffmaster, Ray Richards, Harold Ulmer, A. Wayne Moomaw, Karl Lugar, Marie Tate, and Arlene Friese. The association now issues class "A" and "B" stock. The class "A" investment series mature in nine years. The dues are 65¢ per share per month until maturity. The class "B" investment is paid up stock certificated drawing 6% interest annually.

#### Citizens Saving And Loan Association Stewardson, Illinois

February 5, 1908 application signed by T. H. Bauer, Henry Fritz, Wm. Rozene, John L. Becker, L. Augenstein, Charles W. Wilson and R. A. Peters was made to the Auditor of Public Accounts, Springfield, Illinois for articles of incorporation of the Citizens Saving and Loan Association of Stewardson, Illinois. Articles of Corporation were granted Mar. 25, 1908 with a capital stock of \$1,000,000.00. The charter stockholders were William Rozene, C. W. Wilson, Ragle and Reynolds, J. H. Rozene, T. H. Bauer, Wm. Manhart, Lewis Augenstein, Albert Peters, John L. Becker, Henry Fritz, Robert E. Cecil, Daniel Seward, Henry Belles, E. Deal, John Ulmer and R. A. Peters representing 150 shares with nine direc-

tors, Lewis Augenstein, one year, R. E. Cecil, one year, R. A. Peters, one year, John H. Rozene, two years, Henry Fritz, two years, John L. Becker, two years, T. H. Bauer, three years, Wm. Rozene, three years, C. W. Wilson, three years.

Officers were Charles W. Wilson, President, John L. Becker, Vice President, Wm. Rozene, Treasurer, R. A. Peters, Secretary.

The Association was to issue 4 series yearly on April, July, October, and January.

Class "A" 75¢ monthly, Class "B" 50¢ monthly, Class "E" \$50.00 single payment, Class "F" \$75.00 single payment, maturity value \$100.00 per share.

Roberts Rule of Order guided and ruled the organization.

Loans to be on Real Estate at 75% of value, also on Government and Municipal Bonds, Life Insurance and unpledged stock. Interest at 7% payable monthly. Association begun and issued Series one April 1, 1908. The Association enjoyed a thriving business until the 1930's when it along with most of the business of the village suffered the effects of the National Economic conditions of the time and it was voted to Liquidate. A liquidation committee was named: William A. Denn, Wm. Rozene and R. A. Peters. Work of the committee was completed December 21, 1944, and committee was discharged by the State Auditor of Public Accounts January 8, 1945.

## Visitors Welcome—Food, Drinks and Shelter at Night

### BAR RAGS AND BRASS SPITTOONS

Saloons, Billiard Halls, and Shooting galleries were very much a part of early Stewardson. However, a strong temperance mood always permeated the Village since its inception and the Tavern owner was always faced with having his livelihood voted out of existence. In spite of its numerous supporters, the old time saloon became history in 1910. The village voted itself "dry" and for all practical purposes has remained a dry town ever since.

Mr. B. W. Reed and Mr. H. Martin were the earliest known saloon proprietors in the village of Stewardson. They were both in business as early as 1878. Mr. Martin was the proprietor of the German Saloon and Billiard Hall. He advertised in the "Stewardson Enterprise" that "Pure whiskey, brandy, wines and beers always on hand and for sale by the drink or gallon." Mr. B. W. Reed opened the Palor Saloon and Billiard Room. He claimed, "none

but the best of liquors sold at our Bar." Where were these colorfully named Saloons located? What happened to them? Only the spirits know.

By the mid 1880's the saloon trade was represented by the Joel Shelton Saloon and the Barnett and Beamer Saloon. It is thought that Joel Shelton kept a saloon long before his name officially appeared in Newspaper advertising. It is thought that he may have first hung out his bar rag in a small building on the west side of South Cedar before moving to Tatman's Pool Hall on South Pine Street. W. D. Tatman sold fine cigars, soft drinks, and Sundies. Either business was too good or not good enough and Mr. Tatman sold to Mr. Shelton around 1888. It is known that Mr. Joel Shelton's Saloon was located at one time in the little building between the alley and the ice house in South Pine. It is assumed that this was the location of Tatman's Pool Hall.

Barnett and Beamer's Saloon re-

mains as a memory and short notice in the earliest Clippers. While some think this business may have been located on South Cedar, no one really knows.

The Saloons of Ed Radloff and Henry Ulmer were the ones that the old timers still remember. Ed Radloff's Saloon was started in the 1890's. His business, at one time, was housed in a small wooden building just west of the Opera Hall. Many a plot for a practical joke was "hatched" in the leisure hours spent in this saloon.

Henry Ulmer opened for business, in an old frame building on the north side of East Main, two doors east of North Pine in either 1892 or 1897. William Frede built an addition to his store in 1908 and the old tavern building was moved to North Pine street. Mr. Ulmer immediately built a new brick building just to the east and reopened his saloon. After the "Dry" vote in 1910, Mr. Ulmer converted his saloon to a restaurant in 1911 and then changed it to a hardware



Gallery finally passed and it fell to the wayside like so many other businesses.

### HASH HOUSES THROUGH THE CENTURY

We know where they drank, but where did they eat? Why, at J. D. Baker's, the restaurant man in the Rider Building, of course. Where else in 1887 could one enjoy a good meal and polish it off with a good cup of coffee and a Musical Drummer 5¢ cigar?

Perhaps the younger set preferred to mosey down the board walk to Charlie Weber's Cafe in the Gress building during the 1890's where Jack Flugha was tending the soda fountain. It was necessary to rock a keg of CO2 back and forth for about one hour in order to activate the old soda fountain. "When she run out of Fizz, she had to be rocked some more." Not only did the kids have a good time there during the day, but some of our oldest adolescents recall the time they had at playing tricks on Mr. Weber at night.

After 1910, the night life centered in the "Red Onion" just east of the livery stable on East Main. Crowds would gather in the cafe until all hours of the night eating, visiting, singing, or just listening to the old 'lectric piano thump its tunes out through the night. This marvel was an electrically powered Player Piano with musical rolls and a mechanical key board. Anyone could be an accomplished musician by inserting a nickel into the slot. The "Red Onion," run by Dode Powell and Henry Rozene, was one of the more colorful spots in the village.



**HENRY ULMER'S SALOON**

This saloon was in the same building as Mr. Ulmer's Hardware Store from about 1902 to 1906. It was typical old time saloon.

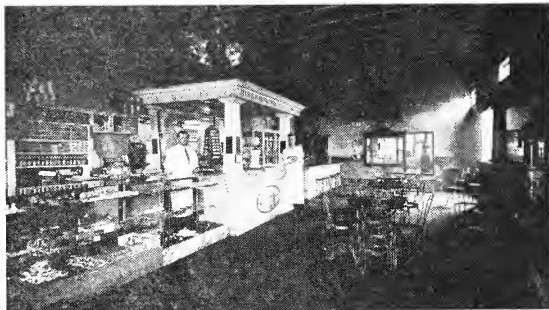
Customers from left to right, Ed Radloff and Wm. Graham. The bartenders are John Barnett and Mr. Henry Ulmer.

store around 1917. Mr. Ulmer certainly knew how to capitalize on a cold snap. First, he warmed the citizens with whiskey and hot coffee, and then sold them heating stoves!

Mr. Henry Ulmer ran the last of the old time saloons. However, during the early 1930's the sale of beer was legalized for a short period of time. A pool hall was opened in the new Michman building next to the Opera Hall and beer was sold for a year or two in the same building.

The Saloons and Pool Halls were popular places for amusement, but a new form of entertainment appeared in 1887. A shooting gallery appeared in Stewardson for the first time. The new sport became so popular, and perhaps lucrative, that a second gallery appeared in 1888. Some form of this sport persisted through the first quarter of the 1900's. A young veterinarian in town found the Shoot Gallery most amusing until he started competing with his wife. She out shot him the first

time and every time. He decided to give up the sport. The novelty of the



This is the inside of the Karl Mautz restaurant located in the block building at the corner of Pine and Main Streets, where the Post Office is located now. To the left is Barb Mautz, and Don (Soup) Walker is standing in front of the counter.



This Cafe was in the Block Building. At the time of this picture it was being operated by Andy and Anna Friese.

From left to right, Cordia Collins, Anna Friese, Andy Friese and Ed Zalman.

By 1915, A. C. Bugenhagen made history with his short orders, fancy candy, and fine cigars. His restaurant was located in an old wooden building on the north side of West Main Street, next to the Wabash tracks. Apparently this was a prime location for restaurants since there were a number of them located on this site both before and after Bob's Cafe.

The wooden structure, housing Bob's Cafe, was replaced by a new building around 1924 or 1925. Art Zalman, Ed Bruns, Harold Gillespey, Eugene Rothrock, Ruth Baumgarten, Viola Smith, and Walter "Junior" Keller were some of the names associated with the Cafe in the west part of this brick building.

Ed and Wilma Bruns were the best known proprietors of the cafe next to the Wabash tracks. Actually, Ed started his first restaurant in the Zimmering Building just west of the present Springer Chevrolet Co., in 1932. Floyd Whitacre encouraged Ed to start the restaurant so his truck drivers would have a place to eat. Mr. Whitacre operated the poultry business, had a fleet of trucks, and employed a number of drivers. Ed and Wilma moved the restaurant next to the Wabash tracks in the Milchman Building in 1934, after Lew Eickberg moved his restaurant to Mattoon. Ed's father, Fred Bruns, operated a Pool Hall in the east part of the building during the same years. Ed, Wilma and their son, "Pee Wee" re-

sided in the center rooms of the building. Ed began selling Electrolux Vacuum Cleaners in 1937. During World War II, Ed served his country and Wilma continued operating the cafe and the Electrolux dealership. She sold the restaurant in 1945 and the Bruns fam-

ily moved to Taylorville, Illinois and Ed continued with the Electrolux Agency.

Junior Keller bought the old brick cafe business from Viola Smith in 1956 and then later moved it to the east room of the Opera Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Friese originally started in the restaurant business in the old Hoffman Block Building, during the year of 1945. They moved their business to the Opera Hall after the block building burned in 1948. Andy and Anna retired from the restaurant business the first time in 1954. After a number of years of retirement, Andy and Anna Friese bought the Stewardson Cafe from Mr. and Mrs. Junior Keller in 1957. Andy and Anna continued to run the cafe until 1970. The "specialities" of the house were "Vinegar Pie" and raw hamburger sandwiches topped with a slice of Andy's prize onions.

Since 1970, the cafe has been owned by Carl Shadwell, Mrs. Paul Zike, and the Albert Millers. The present owner is Mrs. Waneta Kessler. She is a good cook, but husband Dwight's pie will never reach the peak of perfection of those baked by Cordy Collins.

Other names associated with the restaurant business were: "Soup" Walker; The Wabash Cafe, 1922; Vic and Lucile Keller, 1936; Walter Ferchow, 1937; and Maxine Edwards, 1954.



The Henry Ulmer Restaurant, in the same building as his hardware and saloon were in, 106 E. Main Street.

In the picture are Mrs. Henry "Minnie" Ulmer and Carl "Chick" Ulmer.

## BELLHOPS AND CHANDELIERS

Early Stewardson was a growing commercial center and was the favorite headquarters for the many traveling salesmen serving the small communities in this area of the state. Many of the new families in town also needed places to stay until their business buildings and homes were completed. A number of hotels quickly sprang up in the village to meet these temporary housing needs. The addition of the second railroad intensified the need for more space, and more hotels were built to room the new influx of salesmen. During the 1870's the hotels were small and functioned more like rooming houses with long term residents. During the 1880's, this business took on the characteristics of a true hotel with fine dining rooms and other frills, such as parlors, barber shops, and black porters or "red caps."

Hotels were located, generally, in four principle areas in the Village of Stewardson through the late 1800's and early 1900's. One of these sites was west of Joe Latch's Grocery Store while another site was just north of his store. The third site was the location of the Prairie Township building; while the old Watts place at the junction of the two railroads served as the fourth hotel site. There may have been other hotel locations. The names of some of these old hotels have remained in old history books, memories, and (newspaper) advertisements, but their exact locations have long been forgotten.

Jacob Leader erected the American House Hotel just west of the Wabash Depot in 1874. In all probability, this hotel was in the general vicinity of the present day Christian Church, since a grove of trees occupied the land between the depot and Cedar Street. Mr. Leader ran this hotel successfully until his death in 1876 or 1877. It is assumed that Mr. William Pfluger obtained ownership of the old American House around 1877 and changed its name to the Stewardson House Hotel. The Stewardson House was run more like a rooming house where single young business men in the village stayed. Miss Merrian Herron of Shelbyville recalls stories that her grandfather told her about his hotel on the corner of West Main and North Cedar Street.

It is further assumed that Jefferson Button bought this old building and changed the name to Button House sometime during the 1880's. This seems to be the only location that would fit the description for the Button House

Hotel since it was west of the Wabash Depot and the first business south of the Button Livery Stable. The Button Hotel seemed to cater to transient guests rather than serve as a residence house. This old hotel was a long one-story building. It was used as a private residence by the Carriek family by the late 1890's.

A second Stewardson House opened across the street from the Wabash Depot on Thursday, October 27, 1887. "Stewardson House opened on Thursday and is prepared to feed everyone." This Hotel was in a two-story frame building just back of Gress' Furniture Store, along the Wabash tracks. Apparently, it was known for its fine accommodations, service, and good food. In all probability, the Belles family either started this hotel or at least bought it during the 1890's. By now, Stewardson had developed a reputation far and wide for its hotels and plentiful livery services, and the salesmen swarmed in.

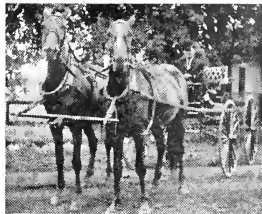
Dr. Hoffman built new hotel quarters in the new block building in the early 1900's. Apparently, the old hotel was then tore down and Belles moved into the new quarters in the Hoffman block before building the Belles Hotel on North Cedar. A number of people ran the hotel in the block building, including a Beiber and Mrs. Minnie J. Wilson.

A Mr. and Mrs. Pillger from Cowden, Illinois, ran a hotel on the Watts property near the junction of the Clover Leaf and Wabash railroads during the 1890's. This was a small two-story hotel with only four rooms, accommodation upstairs and a dining room on the first floor. Mrs. Pillger was known as an excellent cook and her dining room was always overflowing.

During the early nineteen hundreds the automobiles grew more plentiful, salesmen by-passed Stewardson for large towns, and there was not enough business to encourage the hotel owners. The Belles Hotel on North Cedar was the last hotel to operate in the Village of Stewardson. Dolly Prahm turned the old hotel into an old folks home during the 1930's and early 40's. Fred Gruntman tore down the old hotel and used the lumber to build three houses on its old location.

## BUGGIES AND BUCKBOARDS

The livery and feed stables were an important business in the early years of Stewardson. With two trains running through town there were many traveling salesmen who needed their



Another picture of the most modern means of local transportation in the early years of Stewardson's history with a team of horses to furnish the power.

The buggies were kept shined up and good looking, well-groomed horses were used to pull them. They were as proud of their rigs and horsepower as today's automobile owner with his 250 Horsepower motor. Many of the horses were judged by their speed just as the cars are today. The drivers raced each other, too; but the horses didn't very often run into each other regardless of how wreckless the driver got. If the driver went to sleep, the horsepower took him home without running into a ditch.

The driver of this nice team of horses was Walter Beals.

services. Horses and wagons were rented by the traveling salesmen to haul their wares to the small towns around Stewardson. Some of the local businesses would also rent teams and wagons and buggies.

Livery stables were located in three principle areas during the "horse and buggy" days, although the proprietors changed frequently. A large stable was located on the north side of East Main on the present site of Beals Motor co. used car lot. J. B. Turner operated this stable during the 1880's. Peter Didda also was a partner with Mr. Turner after he moved to Shelbyville. Better remembered proprietors of this stable were: Bill Roley, John H. Rozene and Tony Wallace. Mr. Art Roley was the last person to run the stables on East Main Street.

The second major stable was located on North Pine Street. The Falk Produce Company occupies the site of this early stable. Mr. Shaffey and Mr. Saunders owned this piece of Real Estate in the late 1870's but is not known if they were proprietors. Mr.

J. D. Wilson started operating a Livery Stable on North Pine in 1876. This was probably at the same location. Mr. Homrighous and Mr. H. Saunders assumed responsibility for the operation of this stable in 1882 and continued in business through the late 1880's and early 1890's. One of the important facets of this business was breeding services for heavy draft horses. They advertised the imported Norman Stallions, Bombay and Trocadero, would stand for service at their stable. In later years, Mr. Homrighous left the business and Mr. Saunders continued on a small scale at his home on the corner of E. South First and Chestnut St.

A third major stable was located on the corner of N. Cedar and W. North First St. Based upon the very limited knowledge available, it is believed that this could have been the stables built by Jacob Leader in 1874 and possibly the one run by W. B. Buttion during the 1880's. Art Roley was the last person to run a stable on this location. He razed the old stable around 1908 and



This picture shows one of the popular means of transportation in the early 1900's, a wooden-wheeled wagon. Instead of being pulled by horses, these men, Bud and Enoch Keller, had a team of donkeys.

These wooden-wheeled wagons presented a serious problem in dry weather. The wood would shrink away from the iron rim around the wheel. The blacksmiths did a big business repairing wheels like this. Farmers would soak the wheels in boiling linseed oil to keep them from shrinking.

built a house. Mr. Earl Wilson later bought the property from Mr. Roley and it has remained in the Wilson family. His daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Noffke, now reside in the family home.

One of the standard rules of the old stables was that the customer "shalt not get the horses hot." Sometimes the customers literally paid dearly with bruises and bloody noses if they did not heed the warning.

## Horseless Carriages

### GUS AND GASTONS CHEVROLET

William Frede, owner of Frede's General Merchandise, obtained the Chevrolet franchise in the village of Stewardson around 1911. He operated the Chevrolet agency in the old Saunders Stable on North Pine Street until about 1918. The old horse stalls were replaced with numbered stalls to house autos receiving repair work. Mr. Frede moved the agency to the newly constructed brick building on East Main. Ironically, this building has since housed the Ford agency. Mr. Frede moved his agency to Decatur in early 1922.

Two of Frede's former top-notch mechanics, Harold Ulmer and Hobart Yakey, reopened the old building in March 1922, under the name of the Square Deal Garage. In addition to the oil and gas business and general mechanic work, Ulmer and Yakey also sold Chevrolets for two or three years. They then closed the old Square Deal and went to work again for Frede in Decatur for a short period of time. Harold Ulmer moved back to Stewardson in 1925 and started the Chevrolet Agency on the site of his grandfather's wagon shop. The building now houses Springer Chevrolet. Mr.

Ulmer moved his Chevrolet agency to a new building to the east in 1932 and added the Oliver franchise to his busi-

ness in the same year. Mr. Ulmer discontinued the Chevrolet agency in 1945 and sold his Oliver tractor agency to



The shop in Ulmer's Garage in 1926. This was in the building where Springer Chevrolet is now.

From left to right: Harry Merold, Harold Ulmer and Fred Robey. The car looks like it could have been a Model T Ford.

Harry Merold worked as a mechanic for Harold Ulmer until he sold out to Eldo Tate and continued with Tate Oliver until he retired.

Mr. Eldo Tate in 1961.

Mr. Byron Graham began a Case Farm Implements dealership in the Village of Stewardson during the 1940's. His business was expanded during the latter part of the 1940's to include a Chevrolet franchise. His business was run in the Henry Ulmer building on the south side of East Main.

Mr. Graham sold the business and property to Herbert Schultz and his friend, Albert Cecconi in 1952. The business was reopened under the name of Schultz Chevrolet Company. Mr. Cecconi sold his interest to Mr. Schultz in 1955 and returned to Chicago to assume the position of Chief Plant Engineer for the Mercantile Laundry Company. Isaac Brown came to work as head mechanic that same year. Mr. Brown remained a loyal employee and friend until his death in 1971. Mr. Schultz's son, Richard, worked in the garage, also as a mechanic, for a number of years. Bookkeeping responsibilities were handled by Mr. Schultz's wife, Anne, his daughter, Peggy, and David Weber. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schultz sold their business, after 21 years of service, to Lynn and Rebecca Springer in 1973.

#### LEAPING LIZZIES

C. A. Mietzner started the first Ford agency in a little building on the site of the Village Fire Station on South Cedar Street. He then moved the Ford agency to a block building across the street and built a brick house on the corner of South Cedar and West Main Street. Mr. Charles W. Wilson traded an 877 acre farm near Fairfield to Mr. Mietzner in 1921 for the Ford agency, his brick house, and other property in the village. In 1925, Mr. Wilson purchased the Frede garage building on East Main Street and moved the Ford agency to its present location. Probably, for the only time in history, cars and auto repair continued to get cheaper (through the 1920's).

Around 1925, the company was turned over to his wife, M. J. Wilson, and their son, Charles R. Wilson. The name of the Ford agency was changed to M. J. Wilson and Son. The Wilsons moved their Ford agency to Shelbyville, Illinois in 1934. Charles R. Wilson still operates the M. J. Wilson Ford agency in Shelbyville.

J. Nathan Beals was operating a private repair shop in Stewardson during the early 1930's. He moved into the old Wilson garage in 1934 and started selling Fords under the sponsorship of the M. J. Wilson Co. It was not until 1937

that Mr. Beals received the Ford Franchise in his own right. He also operated an auto body shop on South Cedar Street. Mr. Beals continued to operate the Ford garage until 1971. His son, Ralph Beals, continues to operate the family business with the assistance of his friendly salesman, Charlie Beals. Beals Motor Company has received numerous awards through the years from the Ford Motor Company, for outstanding salesmanship.

#### Car Repairs in 1922 in Stewardson:

Overhaul motor and transmission, \$25.  
Overhaul rear axle, \$5.  
Replace transmission bands \$3 to 4\$;  
tires \$3.60 to \$6.

#### Car Repairs, 1974

Body repair—\$8.50 per hour  
Mechanical work—\$8.50 to \$9 per hour  
Transmission overhaul—\$3.80 to 4  
Tires—from \$35 to \$125 (radial)

#### 1922 New Car Price

1922—A new Ford car, F. O. B. Detroit, was \$348. Fordson tractor was about \$500.

#### 1974 New Car Price

Impala Chevrolet — \$4,614; base price—\$3,751.90 with \$784 for the extras. L. T. D. Ford—\$5,000.

#### KEROSENE AND GASOLINE

Otto Zerr is reported to have been the first oil dealer in Stewardson. He built a concrete tank and had kerosene shipped in which he sold for \$2.50 a barrel to people who brought their own barrels.

W. V. Beals started the Standard Oil Agency in Stewardson. Ed Brown and a Ben Brown each operated the agency for about two years apiece before Karl Lugar took over in 1933.

Mr. Lugar says that he started with



This is one of the original oil wagons used by the Standard Oil Dealers to deliver their products in the early 1900's. Kerosene and white gasoline were the principal products along with axle grease.

Alva Patterson is the driver with his team of ponies in a Homecoming Parade.

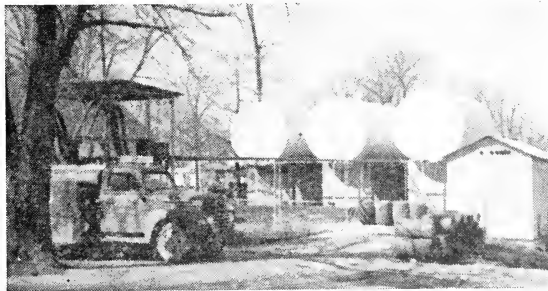
two bulk tanks—one for gasoline and the other for kerosene. They each held 450 gallons. Mr. Lugar retired in 1960, after which, Don Sweltzer was agent for about two years.

At the present time the Stewardson area is served by the Standard Oil Dealer in Strasburg, Clarence Buecking.

Theodore Alwardt delivers gasoline, fuel oil and other oil products in this area for Sunoco Oil Company. He hauls it from the Effingham bulk plant.

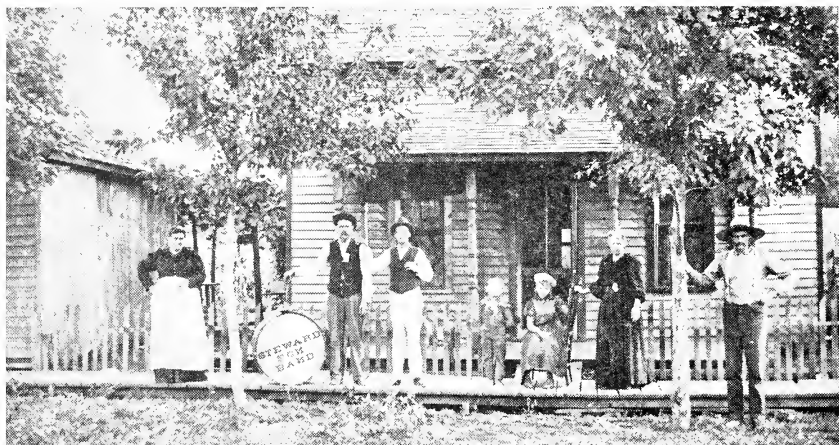
Ferdinand McCormick, Jr. was tank salesman for Sunoco for a year before Ted started and Larry Shumard operated the business before that.

Kenneth Noffke at one time started the business for Sunoco and operated it for several years with the help of Victor Keller. Sunoco had a bulk plant on fourth Pine Street for several years.



This was the Standard Oil Bulk Plant on North Pine Street.

## Fun and Folic in Early Stewardson



This picture supposedly was taken in front of a house on South First Street. There were no names given to us.

Notice the board walk.



This is a picture of one of Stewardson's bands. It was taken on the porch of Henry Ulmer's house.

Back row, left to right: Lloyd Walker, George Zalman, Edgar Williams, Aquilla Williams, Frank Snap, Jake

Hoyer.

Front row, left to right: Wilford Timperley, Charles Walker, Hunt, Kin Corricks, George Zalman, Wm. Timperley.

## STEWARDSON BAND

The first Stewardson band was organized around 1878 or 1879. The old Stewardson Enterprise states, "Stewardson now has a band and one that any town might be proud of." A later article said, "The band is composed of good-hearted, jolly boys and they know how to handle their respective instruments and they will under their efficient instructor, Mr. Huffen, soon be able to compete with, if not excel, the best bands in the state!"

Apparently the band was discontinued for a period of time through the 1880's and then was reorganized around 1887. The reorganized Stewardson Brass Band met for its first practice on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 1887 and made its first appearance

on the Streets of Stewardson on Dec. 24, 1887. Prof. Thomas Murry was engaged as leader of the band for the coming campaign. The editor of the Clipper attested to his ability and said, "Tommy is a good teacher." This was an enterprising group of men that was far-sighted enough to build a band wagon, "so they will be prepared to attend all calls and save car fare."

If in need of a band, a person could contact Prof. Thomas Murry, Stewardson, Illinois for a band that was, "prepared to play at fairs, picnics, and political meetings as cheap as any band in the State."

In 1920, a Lutheran Church band was formed. They had about 35 members and played together for three or four

years. Several of the members lost interest in the band and they formed a new band with the town people. Jake Hoyer was the first director of this band and later a Mr. Henne was their director. They had band concerts every Wednesday night during the summer months on Main Street.

A small group of people in the south part of town formed a band and were known as the "Jay Bird" band.

Later the town band broke up and they joined with some people from Strasburg and Mattoon and this band played at the county fairs.

Mr. Otto Zerr taught band at the Stewardson High School and had a band which gave concerts in Stewardson and surrounding towns in the 1930's.

## PARKS

In the Stewardson Clipper, in 1888, was a news item stating that Wm. Carr had leased the village park, would cultivate the ground, trim the trees and fix the park up in good shape for what he can raise off it that year.



After the Stewardson - Strasburg Community Unit School District built the new grade school building at the present site, the school property in Stewardson was unused. The Village officials purchased the land that was being used by the community for a ball diamond and the grade school building.

Plans were initiated to use the building for a community center; but due to the lack of interest, the gymnasium is the only part that is being used very extensively at the present time.

The ball diamond was improved and new lights were installed. It was named Denn Field in honor of Wm. Denn.

Mr. Denn, a very civic-minded man,

in his Will had left the income from an 80-Acre tract, three miles south of Stewardson, to the Village for twenty-five years. The first money was received in 1970 and was used to purchase this property, and to make the improvements.

Wm. Denn first served on the Village Board as a trustee. At one time he served as mayor.

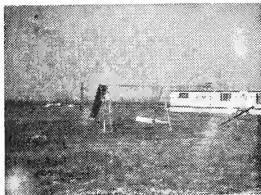
He was postmaster for several years and worked in the bank after that. He was a ball fan and umpired local games for many years.



This is apparently a picture of a group of war veterans taken at a celebration in our park. This picture was published in the Clipper, and some of these men were identified by relatives. Bill Reid, Andrew Harrington, Jake Strohl, John Mesnard, James Koontz, Robert Butcher, Henry York, C. Ricketts and Aquila Williams. (Mayor Glen Giesler's grandfather, second from right, front row.)

This page sponsored by G & J CONSTRUCTION CO., R.R. 1, Strasburg; R.R. 3, Sullivan, George Schlechte & Jim Bales, Building Contractors.  
"Obey the Voice of the Lord Our God"  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH





Moomaw Park is in the Moomaw Subdivision.

Wayne Moomaw set aside a lot in the Moomaw Subdivision, equipped it with some playground equipment, and presented it to the Village of Stewardson in November 1973.



For many years the park wasn't very well maintained. During the W.P.A. days, it was a W.P.A. project to furnish jobs for some people of this area. The sod was cut away for a tennis court, croquet court, and ball diamond.

After the organization of the Lions Club and their first Homecoming, the Club sponsored many of the present improvements. Members of the Club cut logs in Leo Rincker's timber, hauled them to the saw mill, and then built the south pavilion. Later they built the rest



The Stewardson Park was included in an 1895 Atlas as a part of C. Weed's Subdivision; so apparently it was laid out as a Village Park in the early years of Stewardson. As the picture on this page shows, at one time it had a dense stand of maple trees. These apparently were thinned out so that the large maple trees that are standing now were left. The Lions Club and some of the recent town board members set out some replacements. The band stand apparently dates back to 1900 or before. It was used for many band concerts, entertainments, and for speakers. It was the center of Fourth of July Celebrations in the early nineteen hundreds.

Some of our older citizens tell about local citizens who were always ready to make a speech at these rallies.

rooms, the other pavilion and the tennis court. The Mother's Club of Stewardson was responsible for getting the playground equipment.

#### ALLEN'S MERRY GO ROUND

During the early 20's Mr. H. J. Allen who had travelled with carnivals with his merry-go-round settled in Stewardson. He would set up his merry-go-round for a few weeks at a time espe-

cially in the spring and fall. He set it up in the lot east of Beals Garage and on Saturday and Thursday nights he did a good business. He stored it in the building that is now Beals Body Shop.

One night some of the older children had the younger ones very much worried. They were saying that Mr. Allen was being arrested. Why? "For letting Merry go round without a dress on."

## Haunted Houses, Crime and Other Tripe

### STEWARDSON'S HAUNTED HOUSE OF THE GAY 90's

The men of the 1890's converted an old house into a poker den. They circulated the story that the house was haunted. In order to enhance the story, they rigged the old house with a rosin-rubbed string and ran the string to a tree across the street. Eerie sounds would echo from the old house when the string was plucked.

There were a number of stories connected with this old house. A group

of the boys were "whooping it up" in Radloff's Saloon and were successful in enticing another man to spend the night in the old "haunted house." A five-dollar reward served as the carrot on the end of the stick. By now, another attraction had been added in the form of an animated dummy. Just as the man got settled for a good night's sleep, the eerie music began to play. The dummy began to move toward him. Needless to say, he did not win his five-dollar reward.

Rumors of the infamous old house

began to spread, and Mr. Wucherpfing offered his services to rid the house of its ghosts. "Ole Man" Wucherpfing, as he was known, had the reputation of being a ghost chaser. Our fun-loving ancestors saw the chance for some fun. A large crowd gathered, and "Ole Man" Wucherpfing started with his ritual. Suddenly, two men grabbed Wucherpfing, threw him into the house, and locked the door. Poor Mr. Wokerfinny broke through the side of the house, and the ghosts remained.

This page sponsored by GOLDEN HARVEST HYBRIDS, Stewardson

James Huffmaster, Dealer

INVESTORS DIVERSIFIED SERVICES INC., Effingham

Paul W. Dempsey and Plaford Davis



## SHORT CHANGED

During the latter part of the 1890's, Stewardson was treated to a balloon ascension and rides near Lake Paul. The general area took on a carnival atmosphere with booths and crowds of people. One of our citizens was standing by one of the booths when a vendor and a customer got into an argument over some change. "I was just a little shaver then. The man behind the counter suddenly pulled a gun and shot the customer in the shoulder. My! My! My eyes got as big as saucers. That was quite an experience for a little squirt," he said.

Who said they weren't short tempered and tough in the old days?

## NOTE TO YOUNG LOVERS

Wm. Gerren, 1888. Our police magistrate is "chock full" of business. He deals out justice to the rich and the poor without any partiality whatever. If you want to get married, he will tie the knot as tight as anyone, and his charges will never bankrupt you; and after marrying you, he will sell you coal to keep you warm, as cheap as the cheapest. Give him a call if you need anything in his line, espe-

cially in the matrimonial or coal business.

## LEGEND OF PIEDMONT

The late-night theater goers and the business district of Stewardson literally shook in their boots when a lone gunman terrorized the town, holding some of the citizens at bay with a long gun, on the fateful night of Saturday, May 13, 1922. Piedmont allegedly herded people into two cafes at gun point, while others scattered like a covey of quail.

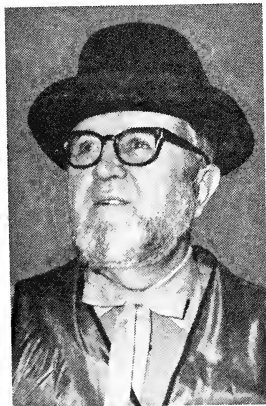
Typical of the Wildwest shootouts of old, tables were overturned, and people leaped behind them. The more curious would peer over the table rim only to see the barrel of his gun peering back at them through the cafe window. Piedmont was then off at full tilt to make sure the captives in the other cafe stayed in place. Some people said that it took on the atmosphere of intermission time at a tent show when Piedmont reportedly passed out free candy to those brave enough to take it. Piedmont, apparently, was having the time of his life with his practical joke. In a matter of speaking, others were having the time of their lives also. Little did anyone realize that Piedmont's old relic could

not fire. In fact, in most minds, it was only a question of "when" and not "if."

One young lad, observing the comedy from the top of a building, got away and called Sheriff Biggs. The die was now cast. The sheriff had lost his brother, Sidney, in a similar situation, and he was taking no chances. The sheriff and scattergun arrived, Piedmont bolted, a posse was formed, and the chase was on. Suddenly it ended as quickly as it started when Piedmont was caught, and his hand was mangled by a blast from the scattergun. Like so many events in this topsy-turvy world, the Villian turned out to be the Victim, and the true Villian (White Mule) continued to run freely. According to a 1922 edition of the Clipper, Piedmont was hospitalized and forced to go through life with half a hand.

This is only one version of many of what happened here that night. Who was Piedmont? Where did he come from? Where did he go? No one seems to know. The event did happen, people were frightened, and he was shot in the hand. But no one can agree on the details, and the story only remains "The Legend of Piedmont" based on some facts and probably a lot of faulty memory.

## Musings From the Mayor



Glen W. Giesler  
Present Mayor

## BURGOMASTERS & BUREAUCRATS

Some of the Village records have been lost, but we felt that the names of the Presidents of the Board that we could find should be listed. Many of these are relatives of citizens of Stewardson and people who will read this book.

If any names are left out, it is only because we didn't have complete records. They aren't listed in order for this reason.

J. L. Becker  
Henry Duensing  
E. E. Herron, 1903 - 1905  
J. B. Singer, 1907  
Henry York, 1909 - 1911  
W. F. Holmes, 1913 - 1917 - 1919 - 21  
D. M. Duddleston 1915  
W. V. Beals, 1923 - 1925  
Gilbert Brummerstedt, 1945  
Paul Yakey, 1949 - 53 - 57 - 61  
Wm. Denn  
Glen Giesler, 1965 - 69 - 73  
E. Boggs  
G. W. Voris  
John H. McDaniel

## VILLAGE TRUSTEES, CLERKS, AND POLICE MAGISTRATES

J. T. McIntosh  
F. T. Engel  
Frank Voris  
Harrison Foust  
John Baumgarten  
Cyrus Engel  
J. T. Duddleston  
Lloyd Walker  
George Zalman  
August Gretzmaker  
Otto Zerr  
Jacob Bridges  
E. Boggs  
H. A. Huffman  
John Becker  
Frank Williams  
E. Gallagher  
W. H. Reid  
A. C. Mautz  
Lars Johnson  
John Manhart  
Charles Walker  
O. Messerschmitt  
Thos. Gains



Village Board — 1974

From Left to Right: Glen W. Giesler, President of the Board, Trustees Walter Strohl, Darwin Storm, Edward Allen, Marvin Underwood, Village Clerk Dwight Storm and Trustee Joe Falk.

W. V. Parr  
C. W. Wilson  
Fred Robey  
C. A. Mietzner, Sr.  
Charles Bailey  
Andrew Weber  
Charles Grove  
H. G. Yates  
T. H. Bauer  
Charles Beals  
T. P. Mautz  
O. Z. Stephens  
S. D. Buzzard  
George Tull  
Fred C. Schultz  
Walter Donaldson  
James Brady  
Wm. Moomaw  
H. H. Ulmer  
L. F. Painter  
Harry Falk  
Paul Strohl  
J. N. Beals  
Russell Turner  
Clarence Ashenbramer  
Eugene Rothrock  
Ray Richards  
Robert Engel  
Wm. Heiden  
Aubrey Jones  
Ralph Beals  
Charles Quast  
Donald Friese  
Wayne Moomaw  
Paul Zike  
Isaac Brown  
Cyrus Engel  
Wm. Moomaw  
Lowell Moomaw

J. N. Beals

At least through 1925, the Village elections were held annually with two-year terms.



Harry Falk  
Present Village Trustee

Harry is not sure of the first year that he was elected as a Village trustee. In the records that are available it shows that he has served continuously since 1945.

Apparently this is a record for continuous service as a Board member.

#### INTERESTING ITEMS FROM MINUTES OF EARLY VILLAGE BOARDS

##### Treasurer's Report Of A Meeting In 1904

Standard Oil for gasoline,	\$3.10
Nick Eckhart - hauling and street labor,	\$5.25
Chas. Grove - labor on streets,	\$3.75
W. W. Latch - labor on streets,	\$3.75
Geo. Huffer - labor on streets,	\$1.75
C. F. Friese - use of engine for grading streets,	\$9.00

At the June, 1904 meeting, a committee was appointed to investigate lights for Stewardson.

The total annual appropriation ordinance was \$1,000.00.

In the October, 1904 meeting, Wm. Spannagel was given permission to build telephone lines to the homes of H. Ulmer and H. Duensing.

March, 1905, Williams and Co. was authorized to order one or more lamps for trial.

June, 1905, a contract was let to build the concrete and brick bridge on Cedar Street.

The expenses in May of 1906, the treasurer's report showed payments to Charles Beals for eight loads of manure, and to Charles Grove for four loads at 50 cents a load; but it didn't tell where it was used.

During these years, 1905 to 1920, many of the concrete walks were built.

Starting in December, 1906 with a petition, signed by the railroad to open the Spruce Street crossing.

In the October, 1907 meeting, the Board instructed the Mayor, J. B. Singer, to consult a lawyer about cider being sold in Stewardson.

As far as is known, no one has the date that the band stand in the park was built, but the minutes show that it was repaired in 1908.

October 5, 1908, at the Board meeting, an order in the amount of \$7.00 was authorized for the removing of a body that had been buried on the wrong lot in the cemetery.

These two ordinances really show the changing times: In the June, 1909 meeting, an ordinance was passed to set the speed limit for cars at 8 M. P. H.; and at the July meeting, this limit was changed to 10 M. P. H.

In February, 1910, ten new gasoline

street lights were purchased.

Pollution was apparently a problem in 1910 as the committee on health was instructed to investigate the Johnson Hog Pens.

In 1910, the license fee for tent shows was set at \$10.00.

The treasurer's report showed payment of 7% interest on borrowed money in 1911.

The building of two water closets in the park was approved in 1911.

In 1911, Frank Williams was given a franchise to furnish electricity for the town for 20 years, and a contract for five years to provide lights for the streets at \$25 per light. Twenty-five lights were approved at that time.

#### Improvements in 1912:

The bank was given permission to raise the walks around their building four or five inches, put in a cesspool under the north walk, pipe water from the village well at their corner, put in a cellar door in the walk with an iron door and three windows in the walk to be covered with iron grates

Two more street lights were added; A concrete watering trough was built at the pump by the bank;

Iron seats for the park at a cost not to exceed \$25 were approved;

\$7,000 in Bonds were issued to improve the streets;

Three carloads of rock were ordered for the streets at a cost of \$1.24 per ton, F. O. B. Stewardson;

A license was issued to operate a movie machine to Neal or Noling at a cost of \$30;

Laborers were paid 15¢ an hour.

In 1913, the trees in the park were thinned.

At different times, the Board minutes recorded the granting of permits for Fourth of July celebrations in the park.

In November, 1914, space in the

cemetery was set aside for a well. The expense for digging was to be paid by women of Stewardson and the surrounding area.

In December, 1914, Standard Oil was granted a franchise to build oil storage facilities in town.

In August, 1916, the Street and Alley Committee was authorized to put up concrete traffic posts at the bank corner, Voris office corner, at the corner north of the Belles Hotel and at the corner south of the hotel. Each post was to have one red light and a cluster of four white lights.

In January, 1917 minutes, approval was given to pay \$10 for coal for the hobos.

Dr. W. F. Holmes was paid \$5 for fumigating a home.

Starting in 1916, the election reports listed the men's votes and the women's votes separately. The returns were recorded this way until 1921.

In December, 1917 meeting, the Fire Committee reported a need for two new ladders and five or six new buckets.

In 1918, to try to control the selling of stolen articles, an ordinance was passed to license junk and second-hand stores, and it stated that only licensed people could operate junk carts.

In 1918, all of the village ordinances were revised and many new ones were written. These were printed in a book form. This is the only ordinance book or record of ordinances, except some that have been passed in the past few years, that can be found. Due to the many changes since then, this is a very interesting book to be read.

#### Signs of changes in transportation:

1917—C. A. Mietzner was issued a license to erect a gasoline tank at his garage;

November 1919—the Board gave permission to W. W. Kesler to erect a gasoline pump and air pipe in front of the Krumpeid building.

Parking was a problem even in horse and buggy days. In 1918, the Board

authorized the renting of the Rosine hitch yard at \$8 a month.

In 1920, the Village records show the local power company as Prairie Electric Company.

In 1921, H. H. York, in a board meeting, urged that the streets be improved; so the Board allowed him \$200 for the project.

In 1921, the city jail was repaired. Ordinances were passed requiring mufflers on cars, and auto tractors were allowed to use only the streets designated by the Board.

In 1945, the Village Board applied to the Federal Works Agency for a loan for plan development for a sewer system. The plans were drawn up; but due to not being able to get financing, the project was never started.

The waterworks petition was presented to the Board in September, 1954. The Village Water System was built in 1955.

The Steve Baumgarten subdivision was annexed to Stewardson in 1964.

The New Fire District was started in 1966.

The A. M. Beals subdivision—East Main St. from Charles Allsopp property—was annexed to Stewardson, Nov., 1965.

All of the street lights in town were changed to vapor lights in 1967.

Kim and Tim's Heights subdivision (Elmer Baumgarten land) was annexed to Stewardson in 1968.

Street signs were approved by the Board and erected in 1969.

The Moomaw subdivision was annexed in July, 1969.

The Lions Club built the second pavilion in the park in 1969.

Main Street was widened and asphalted in 1970.

The Village Board purchased the Grade School property in 1970.

Christmas decorations for uptown were purchased in 1970.

In 1973, a summer recreation program was started, using Revenue Sharing Funds.

## Graveyards on the Lone Prairie

A copy of the original plat of the Stewardson Cemetery was given to the Village Board by Harold H. Ulmer. The plat is dated November 22, 1878, and was filed at the Courthouse, March 12, 1879. It was signed by Henry Duensing, President of the Board, and Fredrick Hoes, Village Clerk. Mr. Duensing was Harold Ulmer's grandfather.

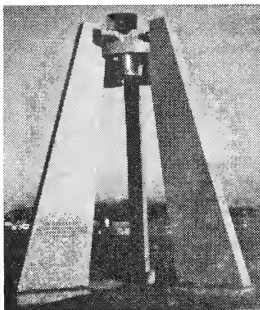
The first addition to the cemetery was added in 1911. The minutes of the Village Board show that this land was bought from Dr. T. L. Ingram for \$500.50, and the right to a choice lot. They then sold one acre of this land to Joe Powell for \$200.

The second addition was recorded in 1943 and the third addition, in 1949. At

the present time, about one-half of this addition has been laid out for sale.

A memorial monument for Daniel Leffer shows the date of his death, March 5, 1863, so apparently some people were buried here before the original plat was recorded.

The Wolf Creek Cemetery is located in the church yard of the former Wolf



This monument and carillon were erected in December, 1973, on a lot furnished by the village, in the east part of the cemetery. Mrs. Victor Keller had it erected to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Keller, Mrs. Berniece Keller Dixon and Idelle Keller, and then gave it to the Cemetery Board. It is a beautiful addition to the cemetery.

Mrs. Lucille (Webb) Keller was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. - - Webb and has lived here all of her life.

Creek Church, about three miles southwest of Stewardson. On June 6, 1877 Adam Kessler deeded to Henry Barns, Charles Heideman and Adam Kessler Trustees of the Emmanuel Church of the Evangical Association, better known as the Wolf Creek Church, two acres of ground. The east half was to be used as a place of divine worship, and the west half to be used as a burial ground for the church membership. For many years interested families maintained the cemetery. It is used very infrequently for burials now.

The Rockford Cemetery is located northwest of Stewardson, about one mile west of the old Rockford School



Apparently, Stewardson always tried to keep the Cemetery mowed. This picture was taken in the early 1900's and shows the three men with the common mowing tools of the times, scythes. One of these men, center, is the grandfather of the present mayor, Glen Giesler.

building, then about one-half mile south down a lane, in a very secluded spot, on land owned by Tom Fox. It was originally called the Welton Cemetery and contains the graves of many members of the Welton Family. At one time there was a little church adjoining the west edge of the cemetery, called the Rockford Church, and the cemetery gradually took the name of Rockford. The church was used mainly for funeral services. Records show burials as early as 1842.

The Mound Cemetery is located two miles south and one-half mile east of Stewardson, and encompasses a plot 437 ft., with many familiar names on the stones. An additional 48 ft. was later added to the south end. The ground was given by John Beals, a great-great-grandfather of relatives in and around Stewardson. Some stones are dated as far back as 1820. Names on others can no longer be read, while many stones have fallen over and are

covered with grass, all giving the appearance of a very old cemetery. In early days Sunday School, as well as some burial services, were held in the Mound School adjoining the cemetery. For many years interested people tried to take care of the cemetery, mowing and cleaning it at least once a year, and maintaining a good fence around it.

The Rincker Cemetery is located about two miles north on Route 32 and one fourth mile east. It was acquired by the Trinity Lutheran Church of Stewardson in 1871. Mrs. Theophilus Rincker, the grandmother of many relatives in and around Stewardson, deeded one acre of ground to the church for use as a cemetery, with the stipulation that a fence be maintained around it. Approximately one-fourth of the plot was to be reserved for use by the Rincker family. For many years it was cared for by the congregation of the church, later it was decided by the trustees of the church to no longer retain it.

## Businesses from the Recent Past

### Banner Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company

One of the oldest Fire Insurance Companies formed by area residents for the mutual protection of its members and

still active at this time is The Banner Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company. It was originally founded in the year of 1878 as The German Banner Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Minutes of The Company meetings were sketchy and indistinct until 1911 and were handwritten in German until 1914, thus making an accurate translation into English of its proceedings prior to 1911 rather difficult. It was

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39 Years in Post Office  
JOHN WITTENBERG GRAIN CO., Strasburg  
John and Edith Wittenberg

indicated however, that August Bugenhagen and Michael Weber took an active part in the early history of the company.

Persons formerly affiliated with The Company from this area from the year 1911 to the present and the dates of their service are as follows:

C. F. Friese, Agent & Director from 1911 to 1928.

L. C. Friese, Director from 1912 to 1930, Agent in 1928.

Wm. Krumreich, Director in 1928, Agent and Director from 1929 to 1938.

Herman Appelt, Director in 1930.

Chris Kruger, Director from 1931 to 1936, Vice President and Director from 1936 to 1954.

Heman Noffke, Agent and Director from 1938 till his death in 1971.

Local persons now serving the Company at this time are as follows: Edwin Manhart, Vice President and Director from 1954 to 1959, President and Director from 1959 to present time.

Rufus G. Kull, Agent and Director from 1969 to 1971, Director from 1971 to present time.

Kenneth E. Noffke, Agent and Director from 1971 to present time.

#### Stewardson Supply Company

This firm was started in 1929 by Ben and Ira Gawthrop with their office in the back of the Opera Hall building. Mrs. Ira (Wanda Mautz) Gawthrop operated the office and she says that some weeks she would mail as many as one thousand cards, quoting the current pay prices to prospective sellers.

They did a big business, Wanda recalls filling out shipping invoices for 21 cars of hay in one day. Some of these were shipped from other nearby towns, she thinks that this was in 1933, a very dry year.

They owned the haybarn that stood at the intersection of North First and North Chestnut. They would fill the barn with hay at harvest time and then ship it out during the winter. They shipped their hay to customers in the southern states.

Ira had worked for Voris' before he went into business with his father, Ben. They had a hay office in Mattoon, Ill. before they started here.

#### Insurance Company in Stewardson

The State Protective Mutual Benefit Association had its headquarters in Stewardson in the 1920's. It was owned

and operated by Ben Gawthrop and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Gawthrop from their office in the Opera Hall building. They had agents in surrounding towns and got most of their policyholders from these out of town agents.

When a policyholder died each of the living policyholders paid \$1.00 and the deceased's claim was paid from these payments.

The Gawthrop's operated this company for five or six years and then sold the agency to another company that reinsured all of their policyholders.

There were several of these Burial Societies in towns nearby. One in Neoga was one of the last ones to go out of business. To keep a company like this financially sound it was necessary to have an equal number of young policyholders and older ones. It was easier to sell to the older people and this made the payments come too close together and the healthy policyholders started dropping out.

#### Odirone Reynolds

Odirone Reynolds, Ed's son operated the restaurant in the Block building. In 1940 he purchased the Drug Store from Burgess, operator of a Drug Store in Shelbyville, Ill. Along with operating this Drug Store he operated a Wholesale Candy and Novelty business.

About 1945 he sold the Drug Store to Russell Turner and moved to Effingham.

#### Restaurant

Wilford Timperley ran a Restaurant in a building south of Mautz's 5 & 10 cent store. A broom factory was in this building for a short time.

A Mr. Daper operated a restaurant in the building by Wilson's Garage.

#### Jacob Yakey

Jacob Yakey had the Surge dealership for many years. H. D. Yakey worked for Jacob Yakey for several years and in 1953 bought the dealership from the elder Mr. Yakey.

#### Wayne Moomaw

In 1938 Wayne Moomaw built an ice house where he stocked ice for ice boxes etc. One fourth of July Wayne sold 15 tons of ice. He also kept watermelons during season.

#### Friese Cafe

In 1951 Lucille Huffmaster and John and Melba Middlesworth leased the Friese Cafe and operated it during the summer months.

#### Guy Schuyler—Barber

Guy Schuyler was a barber in Stewardson at different times in the early 1900's. At one time he was in a shop with Orpheus Robey and another time with Leroy Correll.

He bartered and farmed and after quitting a shop in Stewardson about 1918 he moved to a farm near Beecher City. He operated a barber shop in his home for several years.

#### Clete Nobsch

Clete Nobsch operated a junk yard on North Pine St. for several years, before his death in 1973.

#### Falk's Dry Goods

About 21 years ago Grace Falk Cecil and her son, John bought the building at 134 S. Pine St. from Fred Milchman, who had built it. They sold dry goods, dresses and shoes and operated a grocery and meat market in the Fred Milchman building at 124 S. Pine.

After they sold the grocery and meat market Grace operated the Dry Goods Store by herself for several years and then sold the business to Earl and Nobertha Renshaw. They sold their stock to Bob King, who moved it to the original Milchman Meat Market building.

Grace still owns the building and rents it to Rail and Truck Salvage.

#### Burl Hobson

Burl Hobson, who has just purchased the Engel Building, operated an auto repair shop in the garage building on South Cedar and a blacksmith shop in the private garage at 322 West Main Street.

#### M. O. Finks

In the last of 1921, and early 1922, M. O. Finks installed large overhead bulk gasoline tanks along the railroad in the Northwest part of town. (Planter's Elevator stands there now.)

His brother, James F. Finks was in charge of the construction and the very early operation of the bulk plant.

Gasoline pumps were installed about

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the same time on the curb on the north side of Main Street.

Mr. Finks sold his business to Stanley Steagall, who operated it and after his death Mrs. Steagall continued the business for several years.

Max Hoyer managed the business for her at one time.

In 1926, Victor Keller was the agent for Texaco gasoline and motor oil.

#### K. L. Moran Appliance Co.

This trade name was adopted in 1942 to service Skelgas accounts. Kenneth, from his youth had been interested in radios, telephones, and electricity, and has been active in operating and repairing these and doing electrical work. He had done a lot of electrical wiring in this area including work for R.E.A. projects.

He operated an appliance store in Beecher City for a short time.

After the war he went to an independent distributorship with the name Moran's Bottle Gas.

At one time he operated the Liberty Theatre in Stewardson for Mr. and Mrs. Omer Macy.

He has done Evangelistic work for many years, pastored two churches, held revivals, and has been broadcasting the Gospel over the radio for ten years.

#### Ruth Baumgarten Restaurant

Mrs. Elmer Baumgarten operated the restaurant in what is now the storage room at the west part of the Strohl Grocery Building. She purchased the business from Eugene Rothrock. He had obtained it from Harold Gillespey.

After operating it from 1950 to 1952, she sold out to Viola Smith. Junior Keller operated it after Mrs. Smith; and when Walter Strohl needed the room for his grocery business, Keller bought out Anna Friese in the Yakey building and moved there.

#### Harrison Foust

Harrison Foust was a prominent businessman in Stewardson for several years starting back in the 1920's. He worked for Voris Bros. in their hay and grain business. He went into the hay business, a partner part of the time with Earl Wilson. He bought hay from local farmers and shipped to markets in the cities and the southern part of the U.S.

He operated an insurance agency for many years, along with being the township supervisor, secretary of the Building and Loan, village clerk and Justice of the Peace.

His daughter, Marie Tate says that she remembered him performing a marriage ceremony.

He was Justice of the Peace when this office was used to settle small lawsuits. I, Glen Giesler, was subpoenaed by Casey Barnett, a constable, one time to serve on a jury in a trial in Mr. Foust's court. At that time he had his office upstairs in the Bank Building. Later he moved his office to the former Wash Depot building.

Mr. Foust was also a cashier in the bank for awhile.

#### Ashenbrenner Grocery

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ashenbrenner operated a grocery store in the building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Cedar and Main St. during 1937 and 38. They bought the business from Walter Donaldson.

#### John Manhart

For many years, John Manhart operated a plumbing and tin shop in a frame building just south of the bank building.

#### Elmer Falk

Elmer Falk had a general merchandise store in Herborn. He bought cream, eggs, poultry, and sold groceries of all kinds, clothes, and dry goods. His store in Herborn burned in October 1931. He rebuilt the store; and when he quit the business there, the building was moved to Stewardson and was converted into a residence at 113 South Cedar, where his daughter, Mrs. Gilbert Brummerstedt, and her husband live now.

In Stewardson he operated a grocery store at 106 East Main Street, and Falk's Produce at 113 North Pine Street. He sold the grocery store to Orville Cohea, and Mr. Falk's son-in-law is still operating Falk Produce.

Mr. Falk operated huckster wagons from his Herborn and Stewardson stores. These were trucks loaded with the items most needed by rural people, and the driver went from house to house on regular routes. They bought chickens, as many people would sell enough chickens to pay for the items that they bought.

#### John Tanner

John Tanner operated the Tanner Grain and Feed Company and erected the building, bins and elevator north of the Wente Locker Service.

#### Lugar Dairy

Starting in 1929 Jerry Lugar, Cobert's father, bottled fresh milk at his farm at the east end of Main Street, the Rose Foust farm now, and delivered it in Stewardson. Cobert and Leona bought the Holmes Building, 117 W. Main St., and operated a dairy there.

They bought raw milk from some local farmers, bottled it and delivered it to the residences and businesses in town.

They collected the milk two times a day and delivered two times a day because many people didn't have a way of keeping the milk cool to keep it from spoiling. This was in the good old days before everyone had electric refrigerators.

In 1943 the Lugars sold their business to Rubins at Shelbyville and worked for them.

#### George and Stanley Steagall

George Steagall bought the Poultry House that stood at the corner of South Second and Pine Street. Later his son, Stanley bought the business and then later moved it to Main Street in the building that is now occupied by Springer's Chevrolet.

Stanley bought the M. O. Finks Bulk Oil Business and operated a service station in the garage building in the 100 block on South Cedar Street. Later he bought the Frank Williams Hardware Building and remodeled it for a service station. After his death, Mrs. Steagall operated the business.

#### Ed Reynolds

Ed Reynolds was a business man back in the early 1900's. He worked for Art Roley in the implement business in 1902, helping set up windmills.

He was a partner with Charles Ragle in a harness shop for some time.

In 1918 he built the flour mill on North Pine Street and operated it for a short time. He then operated a restaurant in the Block Building about 1920, then moved to the new Milchman Building (Strohl's Grocery now) for a short time and then moved back to the Block Building.

This page sponsored by TRIPLE K DAIRY FARM, Stewardson

Mr. & Mrs. Glen Kessler and Sons

YORK'S BIN COMPANY, Strasburg, Phone 644-2270

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## More Tripe

### CHOLERA AND CHINCH BUGS

Cholera was probably the most deadly peril that the settler in Prairie Township faced during the 1850's and 1860's and before. This disease killed whole wagon trains and communities. People were literally terrified by this disease and often buried the victims at night to avoid creating additional panic. The sick and dying were ostracized because people were afraid to go near them, and the clothes and belongings of the dead were burned in an attempt to control the disease. The records document epidemics occurring in 1855 and 1863. Thirty-six members of a wagon train were buried in a common grave just inside the gates at Coon Cemetery. No one knew their names or where they came from.

The biggest threats to early agriculture were droughts, chinch bugs, and army worms. During the late 1800's, droughts were more frequent and apparently more severe than in more recent times. It seems drought and chinch bugs went hand in hand. In order to control the chinch bug, the farmer would plow several furrows around his field and then worked the plowed soil into fine dust by dragging a log around and around the field. The chinch bug could not crawl up the walls of dust. They would then dig post holes in the fine dust, about 100 feet apart. The bugs would fall into the holes collecting in a pile from one to two feet deep. Oil was poured in the holes and set afire. This was the only means of control.

Army worms were deadly to the huge hay crops. There was no known way to control the army worm. The farmer had to stand by and watch the mighty army eat a wide swath out of his hay field as it marched on in a straight line to his neighbor's field.

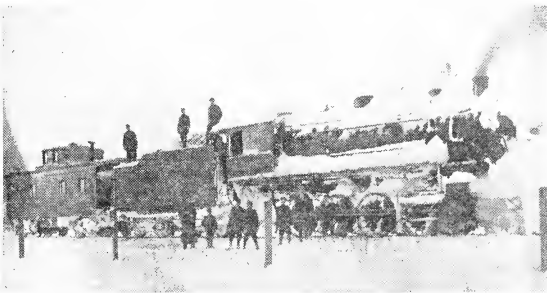
### BIG SNOWS

Our snow of 1973 may have set the all-time record for the amount of snow to fall in a twenty-four hour period, but it was a pip-squeak when compared to the snows between 1900 and 1920 in terms of drifted depth and hardships.

There was also another snow of comparable size in the early 1900's. Snow was drifted over the tops of the young hedge fences. Those drifts at their maximum were eight feet



A picture taken west of Stewardson after men had shoveled the track clean of snow so that the trains could get through.



A picture of a train engine on the Cloverleaf Railroad. The engine had apparently come through some very deep snow drifts to get to Stewardson.

No date or names were on the picture, but we are told that it was before 1920.

deep. People traveled over the tops of fences in sleds. The snow lasted for three weeks, and trains were stalled for four days. The young men of Stewardson, during the early snow, helped carry the baggage and children of the freezing passengers from the

stalled train in the cut east of town. The village men worked day and night scooping the train out of its barricade. Mr. R. A. Peters was in Shelbyville and took a train to Moline in order to catch the "Plug" on to Stewardson; but "Plug" could not make it. Mr.



This is Pine Street looking north after the December 19, 1973 snowstorm. This snowstorm, about seventeen inches deep, was one of the biggest ones that most people could remember.

Peters walked home that night by the south road and waded snow chest deep.

Of course, the granddaddy of them all was supposed to have been the snow of 1831-1832. If we can believe the old historians, snow began falling the first day of December and did not let up all winter, leaving an accumulation of five to six feet. None of our "old yarn spinners" were able to top this one.

#### ITEMS FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS

Frank Hoesse says he was trying to break Mr. Duddleston's colt last Monday to ride, but the colt wouldn't stand it. Consequently Frank got his face and nose scratched up consider-

ably. He says he believes he will quit the business. 11-4-1887

John Bridge, the champion middle weight, and Ned Fisk, the champion heavy weight of Stewardson, had a "set to" in Joe Baker's restaurant on last Sunday evening. 12-18-1887

Several of our boys went to the Okaw timber Sunday to hunt perimmons.

There were a couple of our temperance brethren got "done up" on their way home from Strasburg Saturday night. They imbibed too freely of Strasburg's "best" and got into the wrong pew.

There was a catfish caught out of the Okaw River near Thompson's Mill one day last week which weighed 125 pounds. 1888.

For diarrhea: used boiled milk and castor oil; also brandy and raw eggs.

For a good 50¢ corset, go to Mautz and Dideea.

There seemed to be a misunderstanding between John Bridges and Henry Long one day last week about a pair of trousers. John says Henry borrowed his Sunday pants and returned them with the basement out.

Wm. Gren, our popular dryman, police magistrate, and mailcarrier, was given a birthday dinner last Friday by his many friends. He came downtown late in the afternoon feeling so good that he kicked the football through the window pane in the front

of T. N. Robison's drugstore. It only cost him \$1.50 to replace the glass. He wasn't so full of kick.

The ice cream festival at the Baptist Church last Wednesday night was a financial success. The proceeds, which amounted to six dollars, were placed in the Sunday School treasury.

#### RACE TRACK

The men of early Prairie Township used to amuse themselves with horse racing, and a bit of wagering, at a racetrack northeast of the future site of Stewardson. This track was probably just north of the Mode road near present Route 32.

One day a band of Gypsies stopped and wanted to race against the fastest horse in Prairie Township. The owner of the horse did not want to race because he felt the Gypsies would "rig" the race. The Gypsies' leader brought out a streamlined horse, and the man, secretly, was sure his horse was better, but still refused to race. Finally, the Gypsy leader started teasing the man and said he would unhitch one of the horses from his wagon and still beat the champion of Prairie Township. This was more than the man could take and accepted the challenge. Of course, the horse hitched to the wagon was the one they wanted to race all along. Guess who won the race!!!

## Businesses, 1974

#### Latch Grocery and Service Station



The Latch Grocery and Service Station is located on the northeast corner of Cedar and West Main Street in Stewardson. It is owned and operated by Joe Latch and his wife Dorothy.

The business was purchased by Mr. Latch from Witmer Grove in November 1960. At that time Mr. Grove was operating it as a service station for the Ash-

land Oil Co, and, he carried a few Sundry items, also.

Before Mr. Grove operated the business, the service station was owned by the late Stanley Steagall and after his death in 1936, it was leased to different parties, including Zane Mayberry.

In April of 1962, Latches added a grocery business to their service station. Early one morning in November 1962, the building and contents were totally destroyed by fire. In 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Latch purchased the land where the business is located from Leo Bennett of Windsor, Illinois and rebuilt. They opened their new store for business in November 1963. Along with their line of groceries they handled Standard Oil gasoline and products. In October 1968, they changed their oil and gas business to DX gas and oil. Their business prospered and in January,

1972, a new and much larger addition to the building was built.

#### Glen Giesler Insurance Agency

Glen started as a part time Insurance Agency with State Farm in 1940, operating it along with his school teaching. In 1943 he and his family moved to 217 N. Vine St. and had his office in his house.

In 1962 he moved to 409 W. Main St. where he still lives. In 1966 he quit teaching school to devote full time to the insurance business. He still has his office in his home.

He has also been Mayor of Stewardson for nine years and his wife, Lela, has served thirteen years as Prairie Township Clerk.

At one time Glen served as a Justice of the Peace.

This page sponsored by **MR. & MRS. DWIGHT ROTHROCK**, Strasburg  
Registered Ponies  
**FOREST KOESTER SAWMILL**, R. R. Stewardson  
Custom Sawing, Native Lumber, Licensed Timber Buyer



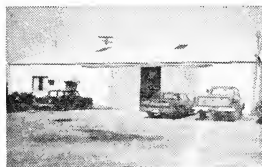
### Aubrey Jones and Sons Trucking Service



Aubrey Jones started trucking in 1944, hauling coal from the mine at Nokomis and delivering in any size orders that people wanted. In 1945 he started spreading limestone that was shipped by the carloads on the railroad and was scooped onto the trucks and then scooped into a spreader that was pulled behind the truck. In 1946, erected the lime bin at the Nickle Plate Railroad. With this the limestone was unloaded from hopper and then into a spreader bed on the truck by gravity. This speeded up the work considerably. He is still in the business of spreading limestone and phosphate.

In 1954 he bought a tractor and trailer unit to haul grain. He now has ten truck tractors and fifteen trailers and hauls oil, steel, fertilizer, etc. as well as grain. He has a payroll of over \$60,000 a year. Aubrey invented a device to improve the spreading of limestone.

### Steve Baumgarten Construction



Steve started doing carpenter work part time in 1957 and then he and Larry Painter started the construction business full time in 1960. They operated the Baumgarten and Painter Construction Co., for a short time.

In 1962, he purchased the block building at 116 S. Pine St. and stored his equipment there. In 1964 he started a cabinet shop at this location until he built the cabinet shop and storage building on North 2nd St. Then he started a hardware and appliance store in the building on Pine St.

In 1971 he purchased the building at 102 E. Main St. from R. A. Peters.

After remodeling it, including the basement, he opened a hardware and appliance building.

He builds about seven new homes, a lot of them in this area, each year.



To the left is Steve Baumgarten's Hardware and Appliance store. The Masonic Lodge has their meeting hall in the next room and to the right is Wm. Miller's This 'n That Outlet Store.

### Dagwood's Union 76 Service



Dagwood's Union 76 located on Rt. 32 on east edge of Stewardson.

Marvin Underwood started operating the service station at the intersection of Main Street and Route 32 in September, 1952.

A frame, one-room station had been there for years. It would be opened for business awhile and then closed. Among the men who operated it were: Clem Roley, Victor Keller, and Lowell Koester. A grease room was built onto the north of the building before Dagwood started. He greased and washed cars in this one stall for about a year; and then, a second stall was added to the north end of the first one. This gave him a room to do overhaul work during the week and wash cars on week ends.

In 1961 or 1962, the owners tore the frame building down and built the station that is there now. Dagwood says that Leo Rincker pulled a hoghouse in for him to put his supplies in. He washed cars under a tent, and the grease rack was outside.

Sinclair owned the station until 1971 when Union 76 took over.

Dagwood pumps about 10,000 gallons of gasoline a month. (That was before

the energy crisis.)

Before operating this station, Dagwood worked at the Ford garage for seven years.

The typist remembers when Phillip Peters ran the filling station in the early 1940 years, in the original building. It was just before World War II. I do not recall how long he operated it.

### Moultrie-Shelby F.S.



The Moultrie-Shelby F.S. Plant on the northeast edge of Stewardson across the Norfolk and Western tracks. Their feed, fertilizer and fuel businesses are combined in this plant.

F.S. had bulk fuel tanks in Stewardson at the intersection of Spruce Street and the railroad. Harry Falk delivered fuel in this area for thirty years.

In 1964 they started a feed and fertilizer center in the Moomaw building on South Pine Street. Mason Reed from Mode was the manager. After about a year, they built their present plant along Route 32, just north of the railroad. They also moved their bulk fuel tanks out there.

They have a bulk fertilizer blending building, a storage building that includes an office, an anhydrous storage tank along with the bulk fuel tanks. They built a spur from the railroad track so that their supplies can be shipped in by rail.

Frank Woodall of Mode was the manager of this plant until about a year ago when he was promoted, and Gene Stremming became the manager.

Harry Falk retired and Larry Shumard is delivering fuel for them.

### This 'n That Outlet

Willie Miller has operated the "This and That Outlet" at 106 E. Main since 1972. He buys and sells antiques, coins and a variety of items. He also has a pool room and refreshments.

He operated the Shelby Repair Shop in Shelbyville, Illinois for several years.

This page sponsored by JONES TRUCKING SERVICE

Aubrey and Jerry Jones, Stewardson  
ED and WILBUR MEERS, Stewardson  
Registered Hampshire and Yorkshire Hogs

## Planters



The first building houses the feed mixing plant and provides storage for feeds and bag fertilizers. In the background to the right is the elevator that was built by Wm. Moomaw, and to the left is their fertilizer blending plant.

This is the Stewardson Branch of Effingham Equity. They purchased the business from Moomaw Elevator Co. At that time the property consisted of the Kriebel House that was used for an office, and two elevators. Since then they have added the large metal building that houses the feed mixing plant and storage for bagged feed, grain, seed, fertilizer, seeds, etc.

They also added a Fertilizer Blending Plant and a large storage tank for Anhydrous Ammonia. They have a lot of parking area for customers and for their fertilizer spreaders and nurse tanks.

They are a big buyer of grain of all kinds from the local farmers as well as selling them seed and fertilizer.

Planters is the trade name for Effingham Equities commercial feeds. The firm has had two managers, Eugene Westendorf and Charles Lustig.

## Depot



The Nickel Plate Depot that was moved to the corner of Main and Cedar Streets by John Falk. The Semaphore was moved in front of it, with the controls inside. John has the pot-bellied stove inside that was standard equipment in the early depots.

In the background is the Dr. Holmes Building. Like many of the older build-

ings, different businesses have been here, such as: Lugar's Dairy, a barber shop; and for many years, it was the home of the Clipper.

In 1970 John Falk, from Atlanta, Georgia, a former resident of Herborn moved the abandoned Nickle Plate Depot to Main St. and remodeled it into a store. He restored many of the things that always went with a depot. He sold clothing at this new store.

John, son of Elmer Falk, had helped his father when he operated the stores at Herborn and in Stewardson. He had operated one of the Huckster Wagons. He is a wholesale dealer in clothing and dry goods at the present time.

He has restored a huckster bed that had been used in Strasburg and mounted it on a truck chassis. He enters it in parades and displays it at his depot store here and in Effingham.

## Bank



This is a picture of the Bank Building as it looks today.

Daggett's Canvas  
And Aluminum Products

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Daggett purchased this building and opened this shop in December of 1972. They make all kinds of canvas covers and canvas and metal awnings.

They both worked for Decatur Tent and Awning for over twenty-five years. As of January 1, 1974, they are owners of Decatur Tent and Awning, too. In addition to tents and awnings, this firm rents tents.

## Rail and Truck Salvage Store



This store on South Pine Street was opened in 1966 in the building owned by Grace Cecil, Stewardson, Illinois.

Mrs. Beulah Blair, Shumway, Illinois is the manager. Several local people, Dongola Tarrant Allsop, Helen Morrison, Grace Knop, Zelma Hagerman, and Mary Krueger have worked as clerks in this business place.

Max Mindes, St. Louis, Missouri, the owner, buys products from the loads of wrecked cars and trains to sell in the store. This makes for a big variety of items for sale; such as, groceries, drugs, clothing, hardware, furniture, etc.

Rail and Truck Salvage Store; and Moomaw Building. The Clipper Office is in this building to the right and the rest is being used for storage.

## Heidi's Antiques

The Wayne Vonderheide home at 302 W. So. 4th is probably one of the first houses built in Stewardson, about 1871 to 74.

The Krapp family owned it in the 1920's.

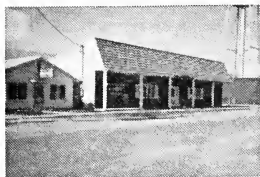
At one time it was rented by the school for a music room and cafeteria.

The Vonderheides are dealing in antiques and have some antique furniture such as an oak writing table from the Shumway Bank, clock from the Stewardson Grade School dated 1918, etc.

## The Stewardson Post Office



### Stewardson Builders Supply



Both of these buildings have been built in the last part of this century. The building to the left was used as the office for the Lumber Yard until the new addition to the right. The brick building in the background was originally the office for Voris' businesses. It had a scale in front of it. It has been remodeled for a storage building for building supplies.

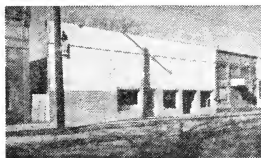
This firm was organized in January 1950 with Don Cutts of Montrose, Dr. Lewis of Dieterich, and Bryan Graham, Stewardson, owners. The business was purchased from Ervin Moran, who had purchased it from the Engel Lumber Company in 1949. Darrell Switzer was appointed manager of the business when it was organized and is still managing it.

After one year, Dr. Lewis bought out Bryan Graham. Dr. Lewis died about fifteen years ago, but Mrs. Lewis is still a partner.

A new office was built in 1950. In 1952 the coal sheds were torn down and a metal building was built between the original building that had been built by Engel Lumber Company and the brick building on the corner. In 1973 additional storage space was built on the west side of the original building.

In 1969 a new office and display room was built on the east side of the lumber storage building.

### Bob's Market



The building with the white front is actually the original Milchman Meat Market and Drugstore buildings with the front remodeled. The remodeling was done a few years ago by Robert King who operated Bob's Market here

for several years.

At the present time the original drugstore part is owned by Melvin Sterling, and the south part by Danny Friese.

To the right is the part of the Block Building that housed the theaters in Stewardson. This building is owned by K. L. Moran.

### S and V Stone Quarry



This quarry was started in 1958 by George and Ben Winters, father and uncle of the present owners, Stanley and Virgil Winters, who took over the business January 1, 1966.

Rock from the land around this plant is ground and sold at the site to local farmers, towns, townships, and contractors. Several expansions have been made to this plant since it opened. It is located four miles northwest of Stewardson.

### Wente Locker Service



Bob Wente bought the Stewardson Locker Plant from Darwin Williams Oct. 1, 1964. This locker plant was built in the early 1940's by a Shelby County Cooperative.

Bob has added a machine room, sausage kitchen, boiler room and storage room to the original building and has expanded the business. He does custom butchering, retail fresh meats, frozen foods and sea foods. He also has a wholesale business for these products that requires three full time and one part time truck delivery salesman.

They butcher 20 to 30 cattle and 20 to 25 hogs a week.

The firm employs 12 people and grosses over \$250,000 a year. This firm is one of the very few in Illinois that is licensed to butcher wild game and they

process 75 to 100 deer, elk and moose a year.

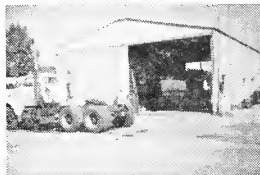
Bob worked at Shank's Packing Company in Mattoon, Ill. at one time and did butchering for the Neoga Locker. He owned the Sullivan Locker Plant too, for two years.

### Village Town House



No record has been found to show when this Town Hall was built. A shed has been added to the north side, and it had been remodeled to house the fire trucks. At the present time, an addition is being built on the south side. At one time a jail was attached to the west of this building.

### Lowell Moomaw Trucking



Lowell Moomaw was a partner in the Moomaw Elevator Company from 1947 to 1959.

In 1959 he bought his first truck, added the second one in 1960, and the third in 1964. He now has a fleet of five trucks. Four of these haul poultry from the south to Illinois markets.

He built his building on North Pine Street in 1967.

A grain mill stood at the site of Lowell Moomaw's service building for many years.

Oliver Moomaw, Lowell's father, was a partner with William Moomaw in the operation of this mill for several years. They made cornmeal, ground grain for feed, and bought grain from local farmers.

Oliver then operated the mill for several years by himself before it burned.

### Falk Produce



This is a picture of the office in the Falk Produce taken over 20 years ago when it was in the original building. From the left to right are: Frank Falk, George Krueger and Gilbert Brummerstedt.

Falk Produce is one of the oldest businesses in operation at the present time. It was started by Elmer Falk and the present owner, Gilbert Brummerstedt, Elmer's son-in-law worked for him for several years before he became the owner in 1945.

They sold a big volume of bagged commercial feeds, getting it in box car loads. After the second World War this business tapered off because of the use of bulk feeds. They sold Honegger's Feeds.

The firm purchased eggs and poultry from local farmers and shipped them to market. They were shipped by rail and truck with as many as four carloads, and seven truck loads being shipped out at a time. Most of the produce went to Chicago but the rail shipments often went to markets in the east. By 1964 the egg and poultry business had tapered off until now he only handles enough for the retail business in the area. He says that he doesn't buy as many eggs in one year now as he used to buy in a day years ago.

During the hunting season buying dead wild rabbits and shipping them to Chicago was a big business. Gilbert says that he remembered having a truck load at a time to be taken to Chicago. They were put in chicken coops, 50 rabbits in a coop and as many as 70 coops per truck load. In the normal cool weather of the hunting season the rabbits would reach the market in a fair condition, but a warm day or two could be disastrous for the dealer.

At the present time their feed sales are mostly dog food and some chicken feed, and rabbit feed. He handles livestock medicines, garden tools, lawn mowers and garden seeds.

For many years the business was in

a building at this site that had at one time been a livery stable. Gilbert built the building that his business is in now.

Gilbert has also been a licensed mortician since March 10, 1935.

### Opera House



The date on this Hall is 1893. It had offices and a room for entertainment upstairs. This Opera Hall was used extensively at that time.

At the present time, a restaurant is in the room to the right. It is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Kessler and is named Beany's Cafe. This part of the building has been used for a restaurant for several years. There were stores in it before that. The room to the left is vacant at the present time. Carl Shadwell had his hardware and plumbing shop here. For many years the Post Office was in this room.

Paul Yakey owns the building.

### Springer Chevrolet



Mr. Lynn Springer purchased this Chevrolet Agency from Herbert Schultz June 25, 1973. He came here from Normal, Illinois.

For about one and one-half years before he came here he had been a parts salesman for a St. Louis based auto parts firm. Previously, he had been parts manager for an auto dealer in Bloomington.

### KWIK WASH LAUNDRY & CAR WASH

These two businesses are operated by Ralph Mietzner, Effingham, Il. Ralph

became a partner in the Stewardson Hardware Corporation in about 1960 along with Richard Mietzner, Dr. Peter Kollinger, Jesse Mueller and Nathan Wascher. The Corporation had been formed in 1955 or 56 to buy the Hardware business from the Engels. The Laundramat was added to the Hardware business.

Ralph managed the businesses till about 1968. A Laundramat was built in Strasburg in 1965 or 1966 and operated by this Corporation. They sold the Hardware business to Les Ealy but kept the Laundramats until Ralph took over the Corporation in 1969 and bought the two laundramats. He added the car wash on South Pine St. in 1970.

The Corporation is a family project and they have a self-service laundramat in Effingham, too.



### Hardware and Laundramat Buildings

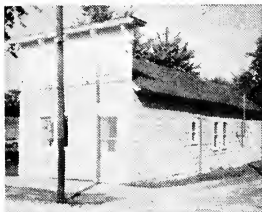
The part of this building with the Hardware sign on it was originally the home of F. T. Engel Lumber Company. His sons, Cyrus and Edwin, operated this hardware store along with the Lumber Yard. Two of F. T. Engel's grandsons, Edwin Voris Engel and Robert Engel, were partners in the business at one time. At one time a furniture store and Funeral Home were at this location.

A frame building that apparently was one of the first buildings at this site was torn down when the laundramat was built about 1960.

### Jan's Beauty Salon

Jeane'tte Kessler opened Jan's Beauty Salon on February 2nd, 1962 in the building west of the Post Office and Main Street. In October, 1968 a breezeway was added to the Dean Kessler residence at 118 N. Valley. This room was used for a shop until January 18, 1972. The Kessler family then moved to a farm home one half mile north of Stewardson. A porch was closed in and transformed into a shop.

### Jr. Hobson Barber Shop



Junior Hobson graduated from the Central Illinois Barber College in February 1961. He served his apprenticeship at Shelbyville, Illinois for two years and three months. He worked in a shop in Toledo, Illinois for years; and on October 1, 1965, he bought this shop and has operated it since then.

This probably is one of the oldest buildings in the business district. For many years the Stewardson Clipper was in this building. For the past several years it has been used for a barber shop.

### Strohl's Grocery



The building that now houses Strohl's Grocery on Main Street was built by Mr. Fred Milchman in 1926. The building had three rooms. Mr. Milchman operated a restaurant in the west room and a meat and grocery store in the center room. Mrs. Charles (Maggie) Beals operated a hat shop in the east room. Ed Bruns took over operation of the restaurant. At one time there was a pool hall and tavern (which sold keg beer only) in the center room. The tavern operated until booze was voted out of Stewardson the second time. A barber shop and a small restaurant at different times were operated in the east room. A Dr. Sandburg had his office in the center room sometime in the 1940's. Engel's Paint and Appliance Store was in the center and east rooms until the building was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Walter

Strohl.

On September 2, 1949, Walter and Arnieta Strohl purchased a self-service grocery store from Clinton Friese. They originally did business in a building that was known as the Mietzner Store and has since been torn down.

On November 11, 1953, the Strohls moved to their present building on Main Street which they purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Engel. At that time, the west half of the building housed a restaurant owned by Mrs. Elmer (Ruth) Baumgartner. Later owners of the restaurant were Mrs. Viola Smith and Walter Keller, Jr. Keller moved his business after a few years and Strohl's now use that part of the building as a warehouse.

This year, as Stewardson celebrated its one-hundredth birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Strohl are also celebrating their twenty-fifth year in business.

### Township Building



This building was built by the Township in 1964 for use in elections for both precincts, office and meetings.

It is being used by the Village Board for their meetings and by several community organizations, including the Senior Citizens.

### Stewardson Fabric Center



This is a new building at 610 W. Main, built by Joe and Marie Falk when they started the Stewardson Fabric Center.

In September of 1965, Joe and Marie Falk purchased the old Lutheran day school and used the lumber to build their fabric center which is located on West Main Street. They opened for business in March, 1966 with a small in-

ventory of yard goods and sewing notions. They have steadily increased their inventory to a complete line of materials and full stock of sewing notions. In October, 1967, they built an addition on the north side of their building and added upholstery materials. Then in July, 1972, the Falks built a warehouse to the west of the store to store seasonal merchandise.

### Beals Motor Company Body Shop



As the sign on the front of this building shows, Ervin Moran operated an implement store in this building. Wayne Moomaw originally started this implement business. It has been the home of various businesses. At one time, Fred Gruntman had a store here. Charles Wilson, Sr., owned it at one time. For many years it had two gas pumps in front of it.

For several years it has been used by Beals Motor Company for a body shop and store room for new and used cars.

### Drug Store



This is a picture of the front of the building pictured above at the time R. A. Peters operated the drug store in this building.

Leona Lugar is an Insurance Agent for the Royal Neighbors. She had been a recorder for 34 years and became a deputy in 1972. This gives her the right to write insurance for the Royal Neighbors. She is a representative for Shelby and Effingham counties.

## Brummerstedt Funeral Home



This is the original H. H. York House, as it looks today, the Brummerstedt Funeral Home.

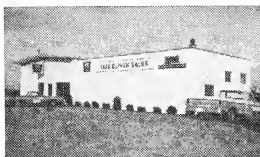
## Avon Dealers

Mrs. Peggy (Darwin) Storm has been a local Avon Dealer since October of 1966, when she took over a rural route that Barbara Baumgarten had started a few months before.

Mrs. Marilyn Allsop had been an Avon Dealer in Stewardson for about fifteen years, so when she quit in 1967 Peggy took over her business and has been the local dealer since then.

Hazel Gillespey was an Avon Dealer for awhile also.

## Tate Oliver Sales



This is the new Tate Oliver Sales Building along Route 32 across from the intersection with Main Street.

Tate Oliver Sales owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eldo Tate, is a fast growing implement dealership that serves many of the local farmers along with customers from quite some distance away.

The Tates purchased this dealership from H. H. Ulmer in 1961. Eldo worked as a mechanic for Ulmer and at the Oliver Manufacturing Plant in Shelbyville since 1945.

They operated from the building at 201 East Main St. until 1972. In May of 1972 an early morning fire destroyed part of the building but they operated the business from there until Nov. 24, 1972 when they moved into their new building along route 32.

Their son, Donald Tate, after graduating from the U. of I., moved back to Stewardson to help operate the busi-

ness.

They are a dealer for White Farm Equipment Co. that manufacture Oliver and Minneapolis equipment.

This new building was built around a service station that was built on this site by Standard Oil Co. It was opened up and operated in 1953 for a short time but wasn't a success. It stayed empty for most of the ten years that the Oil Co. had the lease from Mr. Foust but they didn't renew the lease. Tate's used it for storage until they built here.

## Ray Richards Insurance Agency



To the right is a new office occupied by Ray Richards Insurance Agency and the Stewardson Building and Loan. To the left is a room that is actually a part of the Post Office Building. At the present time, Mrs. Arlene McCormick is operating a beauty shop here.

## Marguerite's Beauty Shop

Mrs. Ralph Webb has operated a beauty shop in Stewardson since 1938. In 1938 she opened a shop in her house at 225 North Cedar Street and then moved to her present location at 222 West Main Street in 1942.

## Geraldine Brummerstedt's Beauty Shop

Geraldine attended Mrs. Heller's School of Beauty in Decatur, Illinois in Sept. 1933. She received her State Beauty Culture license in Sept. of 1934.

She first opened her shop for business in her home in 1941 and still is active in the beauty shop business at the present time.

Calvin Mueller, 422 W. South Fourth, built a small greenhouse a few years ago and has been selling garden and flower plants. He has now built a larger greenhouse.

In late 1973, Eddie Friese started the "Friese Bin Co." as a dealer for Superior Grain Bins.

## Beauty Shops

Several local women have operated beauty shops in their homes, some full time and some part time.

Carolyn Boldt had a shop that she sold to Arlene McCormick who operates it now. She called it "Carolyn's Clip and Curl." Carolyn also operated the Lake Paul Custard Stand one year. She is also a vocalist with a popular musical group "The Travelers".

Mrs. Nadine Price operated "Nadine's Beauty Shop" in her home for several years.

Mrs. Kenneth (Sandra) Friese, had a beauty shop in her home for several years known as "Sandy's Beauty Salon".

Mrs. Dale (Nancy) Syfert works in a shop at Effingham, Ill. but does some work at her home.

Mrs. Ferdinand (Arlene) McCormick is operating "Arlene's Beauty Shop" in the post office building. She bought it from Carolyn Boldt in 1972.

## Tate Oliver Sales



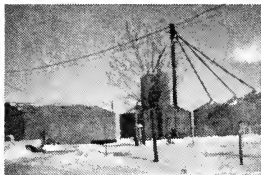
Tate Storage Building on East Main Street.

This building was built by H. H. Ulmer for a Standard Oil Service Station and a garage, originally. He had operated his Oliver Dealership here and Tate continued the business here after he bought it from Harold Ulmer until he moved to his new building at the east end of Main St. in 1972.

For many years Elmer Dappert was the local agent for the Shelbyville Mutual Fire Insurance Company and Pana Hillsboro Wind. In December 1964 Lloyd Buesing took over the agency. He retired in January 1972 and since then Ronald Beitz 722 W. Main St., Stewardson has been the agent for this area.

Since 1965 Mrs. Charles (Norma) Hobson has sold Laundry Care Products, Home Care Products, Beauty Care Products, Family Care Products and Food Supplements.

### Frank Brandt Grain



Glen Brandt started buying grain in 1965 over the scale with four bins. Three more bins and an elevator leg were added.

All of the grain, bought from local farmers, is trucked out to St. Louis, Decatur, or Wayne City. The firm has one semi-trailer, and the rest of the grain is hauled by commercial trucks. Over a million bushels of grain are handled annually.

Frank, Glen's son, took over the business in 1970 when Glen retired.

Frank also raises Appaloosa horses and shows them. His horses have won several prizes in parades and contests.

Carolyn Moomaw has given piano and organ lessons at her home for several years. Before that she taught music at Samuels in Effingham, Illinois. She has as many as 50 students a week at times.

### MY FIRST \$5.00 GOLD COIN

In the early days of Stewardson, Stewardson employed a policeman full time. One of the duties of the policeman was to light and care for the city street lights. The lights were individual lights placed at certain locations in the city, principally on the corners. They consisted of a post about 7 feet high from the top of the ground. On top of the post was a glass enclosed box, side rims metal with glass between, size about 12 inches square at bottom and 16 inches square at top and about 18 inches high with ornamental metal top. Inside this enclosure was an ordinary kerosene lamp holding about 2½ pints of kerosene with a 10 inch chimney. There were about 2 dozen of these lamps placed principally on corners, up town and over the residential sections, from G. W. Voris' residence on

Mr. Homer Bales, a professional photographer, moved to Stewardson in 1969 and has operated the Bales Home Portraits Studio in his residence since then.

Mr. Bales had operated studios in Decatur, St. Louis and East St. Louis before he moved here.

His father, John Bales was a teamster here about seventy-five years ago.

Grace Renshaw has sold Tupperware in Stewardson and surrounding communities for 18 years. Most of her selling was done with parties in customers homes.

Grace was the first cook in the school district cafeteria and held this position for nineteen years.

Mrs. Jerry (Myrna) Jones is also a Tupperware saleslady.

Charles Flugha has operated a Radiator Shop at his residence for about ten years. He cleans and repairs radiators and does some welding. Charles was the Standard Oil Bulk Plant Dealer in Stewardson for a few years at one time.

### Beauty Shops

Marjorie Flugha operated a beauty shop in her home for several years.

## Trivia

the north to D. M. Duddleston's on the south, Wm. Rozene residence in the east and Rev. Eliga Golliger's residence on the west.

The policeman's duty was to fill lamp with kerosene, clean the chimney, light in the early evening, and blow out at 10 o'clock. Through the years of 1900 and 1901 the city policeman was Mr. Jacob Bridges. Mr. Bridges was a friend of youth, and they, friends of him. Knowing how difficult it was for youth to earn money, for some reason he approached me, asking me if I would like to earn some money. He told me he would give me 50¢ per month if I would take care of the village lamps, as I have mentioned above. I told him I would discuss it with my father and let him know. He and my father were friends, and I guess he felt sure my father would consent, and he did.

I reported for duty, and he told me

### Bales Motor Company



Bales Motor Company located on E. Main.

Max Tabbert has been an auctioneer since March 1957. He attended the Auctioneer Training School in Mason City, Iowa.

Carl Shadwell, a plumber, moved here from Effingham, and has operated the Shadwell Plumbing and Heating Firm for several years.

### Block Building

A part of the original Block Building is occupied by Daggett's Canvas and Aluminum Products to the left, and the Stewardson Lions Club to the right.

just what I had to do daily, just as I have mentioned above, and it was a task 7 days of the week, rain or shine, hot or cold. This I did daily except for blowing some out at blow-out time. In the blow-out process, Mr. G. W. Voris blew out those on his way home, Mr. D. M. Duddleston and Mr. T. N. Robison on their way home, and Rev. Eliga Golliger at his corner and Mr. William Rozene at his corner. In the end I had but few to blow out.

When my month was ended and pay day arrived, Mr. Bridges gave me a 50 cent piece. My father cautioned me to save my money. I saved my 50 cent pieces until I had 9 and when Mr. Bridges gave my tenth 50 cent piece, he asked me if I would like to trade my ten 50 cent pieces for a \$5.00 gold coin. Mr. Bridges was a gold lover, and on the most part always demanded gold when he was paid. He was his own banker. He

took care of his gold. He loved it as most people then; few have the chance to now. I liked it, too, and when he made me the offer. I ran home, got my nine 50¢ pieces, returned, made the trade, and journeyed back home with a shining \$5.00 gold coin. This is how I made my first \$5.00 gold coin.

R. A. Peters.

### HE WHO IS FLEEDED LAST

"Col. Lamb will start a new bank in Stewardson with J. P. Button as cashier. He will also make some changes in our Mill . . ." If Stewardson had a few such men as the Colonel things would boom. He is all right. There's no flies on the Colonel." Later information states that Col. Lamb never made it to Stewardson. In fact, comments in the 1888 Stewardson Clipper lead one to suspect that Col. Lamb was not the one that was fleeced.

### PRICES DURING THE CENTURY

Before the Civil War, common brown sugar was 5¢; after, 25¢. Coffee was 25¢ and 60¢ after the War. Whiskey went from 15¢ per gallon to \$3. Hogs went from 3½¢ to 10¢.

#### 1887—Stewardson Market

Oats, 22¢ per bushel  
Wheat, 64¢ per bushel  
Hay, \$7 to \$8 per ton  
Eggs, 14¢ per dozen  
Chicken, 6¢ per pound  
Turkeys, 7¢ per pound  
Ducks, 6¢ per pound  
Butter, 15¢ per pound  
Hogs, \$4.40 to \$4.60 per hundredweight

#### Wages—early 1850's:

A Thomas J. Elliott cut railroad timber at One Dollar a day. During the late 1850's, he worked breaking raw prairie land at \$2.50 per acre.

1934—Teachers in rural schools taught for \$55 per month for an eight-month term.

Roofing—\$2.50 to \$4 per roll.

In 1922 labor dropped from \$1.30 to \$1 per hour.

#### 1922 Grocery Prices

Gallon of peaches, 85¢  
17 pounds of sugar, \$1  
Corn, per can 10¢  
Large Post Toasties, 15¢  
Gallon of Staley's Syrup, 45¢  
Rolled Oats, 22¢  
Laundry soap, 6 bars for 25¢

#### 1888—Clothes:

Seersucker coats and vests at Hoese's, \$1.35 to \$2.

#### 1922—Clothes:

Suits \$22; Overcoats \$23.  
1922—Gasoline 22.9¢ per gallon.  
1888—Laundry soap, two bars for 5¢;  
Blue Mottle soap, three bars for 10¢;  
Potatoes, \$2 per bushel.

#### 1974—Prices

(on day that this article was written)

Oats, \$1.60 per bushel  
Corn, \$3.17 per bushel, shelled  
Beans, \$6.49 per bushel  
Wheat, \$6.15 per bushel  
Hogs, \$40.50 per hundredweight  
Cattle, \$45.25 per hundredweight

#### 1974—Grocery Store Prices

Turkeys, 69¢ per pound  
Weiners, 59¢ per pound  
Sliced Bacon, \$1.09 per pound  
Bread, 45¢ per loaf  
Sugar, 5 pounds for 89¢  
Hamburger, \$1.29 per pound  
Whole Milk, \$1.46 per gallon  
Butter, \$1.06 per pound  
Pork and Beans, No. 2 can, 35¢  
Potatoes, 15¢ per pound  
Grapefruit, 2 for 29¢  
Oranges, 99¢ per dozen  
Bananas, 17¢ per pound  
Post Toasties, 18 ounces, 49¢

Syrup, Quart, 76¢

Rolled oats, large box, 82¢

Laundry soap, 2 bars for 41¢

Corn, 30¢ per can

Sport coats—\$40 to \$60; Suits—\$70 to \$100; Topcoats—\$60.

#### Land Prices

In the 1850's, Thomas J. Elliott bought 120 Acres of land in Holland Township at \$5 per Acre for 40 Acres, and \$2.50 per Acre for the other 80 Acres. He sold this farm in 1869 for \$30 per Acre.

About 1865, John Ruff bought 40 Acres of wild prairie land for \$8 an Acre. Eight years later he bought 40 Acres more at \$10 per Acre and 20 Acres at \$15 per Acre.

In 1890, he bought 135 Acres at \$30 per Acre. Part of this was swamp land and needed extensive draining. He reclaimed approximately 30 Acres at a cost of over \$1,000. It took 24,000 lengths of tile.

In 1888, the NE quarter of Section 5, Town 9, Range 5 East, one mile west of Stewardson was advertised at \$5,000, with \$1,000 down and the balance payable in eight years, with 5% interest.

In 1946, a 160 acre farm, all tillable, east of Stewardson, sold for \$100 per Acre.

Some land sales in past few years:

80 Acres, \$700 per acre  
80 Acres, \$965.00 per acre  
Bottomland with timber on a large part, \$285.00 per acre.

60 Acres, \$700.00 per acre.

Cost of new homes:

3 bedroom, no basement, 2-car garage (1,450 square feet)—\$28,000 to \$30,000.

Gasoline—51.6¢ per gallon

1940 Oliver 60—\$525

1974 Tractors: 100 HP—\$16,000; 90 HP—\$14,000.

Combine—15 feet, 6 row—\$31,000.

Labor rates—\$7.50 to \$12.50 per hour for repairs.

## Organizations

### Stewardson Lodge No. 541 AF&AM

Sigel Lodge No. 541 was organized in Sigel, Illinois on November 6, 1867, the charter officers included J. J. Carey (W.M.); Isaac Perkins (S.W.); J. Williamson (J.W.); Arch Shelton (Treas.); F. J. Niswanger (Secy.); J. C. Cleveland (S.D.); D. W. Davis (J.D.), and J. McKenzie as Tyler. The brethren moved Sigel Lodge No. 541 to Stewardson, Illinois on June 16, 1875, and continued to meet on Wednesday evening on or be-

fore the full moon in each month at their hall in the Stewardson School House. The Masonic Hall was moved to the upper room of Keller's new store in June of 1878.

The first Masonic funeral was held July 29, 1878 for Brother Wm. Houchin. The name of the Lodge was changed September 28, 1898, to Stewardson Lodge No. 541. In addition to the School House and Keller's Store, the members have used the Opera Hall, the ballroom of the Belles Hotel, and

Webers store as a Lodge Hall. Today, Stewardson Lodge No. 541 meets in their own Masonic Temple on the north side of East Main Street. The exterior of the temple was remodeled during the early 1950's. The interior was remodeled, under the direction of Brother Floyd Swank, in 1974.

Stewardson Lodge No. 541 has the distinction of having had three 50 year members. These 50 year members included Dr. S. D. Buzzard, Walter Donaldson, and A. L. Seward.



### American Legion

Wilbur Broughton Post 611 was organized on September 28, 1920 in memory of Private Wilbur Broughton. Private Broughton gave his life for his country on July 23, 1918. Originally this organization was composed of local members who served their country during World War I as well as some veterans from the Spanish American War and former members of G.A.R. John Huffer Post. Later on, the Legion organization was expanded to include all veterans who served their country.

### American Legion Auxiliary

Lucile and Victor Keller organized the ladies auxiliary to the Stewardson American Post. This organization was chartered on July 5, 1946. The Stewardson American Legion Auxiliary had the honor of having a district president, Sandra Friese, elected from its chapter in 1972 - 1973.

### The Stewardson Civic Stewards

The Stewardson Civic Stewards was organized in 1971, by the local business proprietors to help promote Stewardson. The name was suggested by Postmaster Elmer Keller. Glen Giesler, Jan Kessler and Norma Hobson have served as Presidents.

The Civic Stewards has a Welcome Wagon for newcomers to Stewardson and sponsors some special promotions during the year.

### Order of Eastern Star

The Joan of Arc Chapter No. 827 of the Order of Eastern Star was instituted in the Village of Stewardson on February 9, 1920, with 28 charter members. Ethel M. Buzzard was installed as Worthy Matron and Walter Donaldson was installed as Worthy Patron.

The charter members included: Ethel Buzzard, Maude Mautz, Elmer Dappert, Blanch Voris, Ruby Dappert, Selma Seward, Walter Donaldson, Ida Donaldson, Nellie Whitacre, Minnie J. Wilson, Lucia Seward, Lucinda Rincker, Virginia Belle, Nora DeVore, Alice Holmes, Saphronia Lowery, William F. Holmes, Wanda R. Mautz, Ralph E. Voris, Edith Gatchell, A. Tawn Seward, Bettie McIntosh, Samuel D. Buzzard, Wm. F. Rincker, Elizabeth Pfingsten, Mary Pfingsten, Roll Seward, and Florence Quicksall.

The chapter met every 2nd and 4th Monday evening of every month until the meeting time was limited to the 2nd Monday in 1973. The Joan of Arc

Chapter has been housed in the Opera Hall, a two story building on South 1st Street, and above Webers Store. They presently hold meetings in the Masonic Temple on East Main St. The Eastern Star held an annual pancake and sausage supper from 1952 to 1962. They have held a smorgasbord supper every year since 1962. The Joan of Arc Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star presently has 48 members.

### Stewardson Lions Club

The Stewardson Lions Club was chartered on March 9, 1956, with 25 original members. Eleven of these members are still active at the present time. The new club was sponsored by the Neoga Lions Club. Major National and International projects of the Lions Club includes: distribution of eye glasses and seeing eye dogs, the glaucoma screening unit, and disaster relief. Locally, the club has contributed to mercury vapor lighting, pavilions and rest rooms at the Stewardson Park, a new fire district, tennis and basketball courts, a number of local school children have benefited from glasses purchased by the Lions Clubs. The Lions also sponsor Little League Baseball and the Boy Scouts in Stewardson and contributes to other organizations. The main money raising projects are the Community Sale every February and the Homecoming every August.

### Chamber of Commerce

At one time, Stewardson had a Chamber of Commerce. Its meetings were held upstairs in the Bank Building and apparently most of the businessmen belonged to it. It disbanded shortly before the Lions Club was started.

### The Stewardson Parent Teachers Association

The Stewardson Parent Teachers Association was organized in 1919 and became affiliated with the State and National Congress in 1921.

Officers—President, Mrs. Reo Talcott, Vice President, Mrs. Fred Koppen, Secretary, Mrs. Burl Lugar, and Treasurer, Mrs. William Logan.

### Shelby County Home Bureau

A preliminary meeting for the purpose of organizing a Home Bureau was held on February 10, 1936. The organizational meeting was held in Shelbyville on August 28, 1936. The new organization had a membership of 365 women. The first unit in the Steward-

son area was organized with eleven members on January 20, 1939. Mrs. Edgar Huffmaster was the first chairwoman of the new Stewardson Unit of the Home Bureau. Reva Elliott served as the 1st vice chairwoman and Mrs. Lela Beals was the first secretary-treasurer. A second unit was organized in the Stewardson area on December 12, 1956. Lucile Keller, Leona Lugar, and Catherine Butcher were the charter officers in the new unit.

The name of the organization was changed to Shelby County Homemakers Extension Association on July 1, 1962. Officers in the Stewardson Night Unit during this Centennial year include: Nancy Syfert, Marjorie Fluga, Ione Lawrence, and Susan Buzzard. This unit has a total membership of 22 people.

### Stewardson Rebekah Lodge 407

This Lodge was organized as a part of the Rebekah assembly of the State of Illinois on the 7th day of May, 1910 with the following members: O. Messerschmitt, W. F. Holmes, M.D., J. T. Duddleston, Otto Dappert, B. S. Mohler, Noah Kriebel, Elmer Dappert, Odis Storm, Maud Barnett, A. D. Eckhart, Mrs. Jacob Yakey, Mrs. Lawrence Strohl, Mary Draper, Vina Linn, Mrs. B. H. Mohler, E. U. Kriebel, Anna Culver, Bertha Dappert, Blanche Griffith, L. Zerr, Jacob Yakey, Clyde Whitacre, W. E. Reynolds, N. Eckhart, Charles Culver, R. R. Draper, W. E. Beals, Eva Stansfield, Minnie T. Beals, Edith Duddleston, Grace Whitacre, Nettie Dappert, Mary E. Zerr, Mrs. L. E. Bolles, Mary A. Kerns, Mrs. Walter Falk, Alice D. Holmes.

### Stewardson Commercial Club

The Stewardson Commercial Club was organized January 19, 1917 to promote local businesses in the village. The organization ceased to function after October 16, 1922. The Stewardson Commercial Club had stationery printed listing the various businesses that were located in Stewardson during those years. This listing of charter members included:

Frank Williams, William Frede, A. C. Mautz, John W. Bailey, C. A. Metzner, Jr., Frank R. Voris, Adam Brummerstedt, F. F. Yakey, Dr. S. D. Buzzard, Walter Donaldson, Dr. H. H. York, R. E. Voris, Charles W. Wilson, D. M. Duddleston, Clinton Storm, Glen Frede, Charles A. Metzner, Sr., Fred Robey, John Barnett, Cyrus Engel, F. F. Engel, Edward Streng, C. A. Ragel, C. E.

Brown, Harry Newlin, John Patterson, Guy Kriebel, Fred Schultz, Harry Belles, Ralph Whitacre, Andrew Weber, J. T. Beeber, H. Adams, S. H. Blythe, Dr. W. F. Holmes, M.D., Wm. A. Denn, W. V. Beals, R. A. Talcott, T. P. Mautz, L. Q. Johnson, C. E. Steagall, H. M. Johnson, Fred Milchman, K. P. Mautz, Williams and McIntosh Hdw., Guy Schuyler, Dr. O. Z. Stephens, M.D., G. W. Voris, O. F. Church, Irvin Rozine, E. L. Wilson, T. H. Bauer, Albert Weber, R. A. Peters.

The first officers of this club were: Frank Williams, President; Wm. Frede, Vice-President; A. C. Mautz, Treasurer; R. A. Peters, Secretary.

This listing of businesses included:

National Bank, Packing House, Ice Plant, Electric Light Plant, Two Building and Loan Associations, Two Cream-

eries, One Tile Factory, One Brick Factory, One Elevator, Three Auto Dealers and Garages, One Poultry House, High School, Five Churches, Two General Stores, Two Department Stores, Drug Store, Drug and Book Store, Jewelry Store, Ten Cent Store, Three Restaurants, Three Blacksmith Shops, Hotel—Steam Heat, Lumber Dealer, Furniture Store, Two Barber Shops, Cash Grocery, Stewardson Clipper The Home Paper, Three Feed Stores, Harness Shop, Millinery Store, Meat Market, Livery & Feed Barn, Hardware Store, Two Railroads, Five Doctors, Standard Theater, Two Grain and Hay Dealers, One Battery Service Station.

#### G.A.R.

The Grand Army of the Republic was the first Veterans organization in the

general area of Stewardson. Membership of this organization was composed of men from the area who served the Federal union during the Civil War. The local post was named in honor of John Huffer. John Huffer Post, Number 633, Department of Illinois Grand Army of the Republic was mustered on 7-2-1887, by C. E. Woodward, and other Comrades of Cyrus Hall Post of Shelbyville, Ill. The charter members included: Henry Temperly, T. H. McDonald, C. C. Wilson, Robert Butcher, Samuel Bailey, A. E. Harrington, Wm. M. Miller, C. H. Storm, W. P. Layton, Uriah Baldwin, W. W. Pierce, Wm. Temperly, H. H. York, A. W. Spracklen, Reed Walker, W. E. Anderson, Scott McDonald, J. H. Whitaker, and Henry Dennis.

## Centennial Farms

### Otis Shumard Farm



This is the E½ of the SE¼ of Sec. 18 T10 N.R. 5E, 80 acres. In 1850 it was given by the U.S. Government to the State of Illinois. In 1852 the State deeded it to the I.C.R.R.; and on April 30, 1869, Elisha Roley, Mrs. Shumard's grandfather, became the owner. Other owners were: February 16, 1870, Joseph Roley, Mrs. Roley's uncle; December 7, 1886, Joseph Roley, her father; and December 20, 1910, Otis and Gertie Shumard became the owners. The present owners are Otis Shumard and his son, Earl. Otis lives on the farm.

### Albert, Olga and Minnie Bose Farm

This forty acre farm in Section 26, Prairie Township, was acquired by August Beitz, Sr. in 1871. It was inherited by Anna Beitz Bose and at her death it was willed to the present owners.

### Glen and Ferne Brandt



Frankie Brandt, son of Glen and Ferne Brandt lives on this farm a short distance west of the Brandt Grain Bins.

This farm was originally owned by Carl Juhnke, Mrs. Brandt's grandmother's father. Her grandmother, Mrs. Herman Altg and then her mother, Mrs. Rudolph Von Behren owned it. It now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Brandt.

The Brandt's own two more Centennial farms in Prairie Township. One by the St. Paul Cemetery was owned by Henry and Eliza Altg and then by Mrs. Brandt's grandfather, Herman Altg. Her mother, Mrs. Rudolph Von Behren owned it before the Brandts.

Their third Centennial farm is just east of Strasburg about one half mile. It was owned by Wm. Von Behren, Sr., Mrs. Brandt's grandfather. Her grandmother owned it until Mr. and Mrs. Brandt purchased it.

### Wm. A. Brehmer Farm



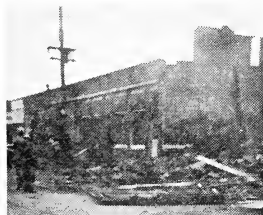
On December 31, 1870, this farm was purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad Trustee by Carl Charles Brehmer. It was then purchased from him by Wm. J. Brehmer, November 6, 1888; and then Wm. A. Brehmer inherited the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 14 in Prairie Township on April 22, 1933.

**Edwin H. Giesler Farm**

This farm was purchased by his grandfather, Adam Giesler, October 2, 1868. On March 6, 1891, his father, Adam Giesler, purchased it on September 25, 1939, it was inherited by his stepmother, Emma Giesler. On June 1, 1946, it was purchased by Edwin H. Giesler, the present owner.

**Edward Quast, Sr.**

This Centennial Farm was purchased in 1871 by George Quast, Edward's great-grandfather. His Uncle Fred Quast owned it, and two of his daughters inherited it. He bought it from them in 1938.

**BLOCK BUILDING FIRE**

This is a picture of the rubble left after the fire burned out the north part of the Block Building. As you can see, from the part still standing, that the fire burned out part had been two stories. At times there were business offices upstairs in this building and they were rented for apartments.

**McCormick Centennial Farm**

Charles Muchow purchased this farm from Frederick Hoesle in 1874. In 1883 it was willed to Ferdinand Muchow. In 1924 when he died it was willed to his wife and daughters. After his wife's death it was sold by the surviving heirs in 1942 to Julia McCormick. In 1971, the present owners Ferdinand and Oma McCormick purchased it from Julia's heirs.

**K. L. Moran**

Mr. Moran, a local resident, owns a Centennial Farm that doesn't have any buildings on it. It is located one and one-half mile north and three-fourths miles west of Trowbridge.

The land was purchased by Peter Russell Moran in September, 1864. He conveyed this land to George R. Moran, Kenneth's grandfather, in 1908. In 1939

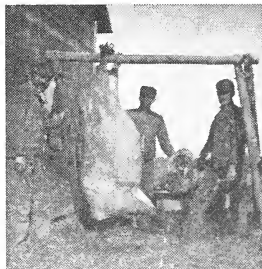
the title passed to Laura Moran, his grandmother; and on her death to Lawrence Moran, and from his to his son, Kenneth.

**Walter Zalman Farm**

John and Anna Falk, came to the United States in 1858 from Germany and purchased 80 acres from the Illinois Central Railroad. Mr. Falk walked to Neoga to work on the railroad to pay for this farm. There were no roads, churches, or schools, and the land was covered with Prairie grass.

In 1883 Henry and Caroline Falk Zalman purchased the farm. Walter and Kathryn Zalman have owned it since 1941.

The Falks went to the Post Office in Big Spring on the Doug Spain land for their mail, and to Sigel for their groceries.

**BUTCHERING**

This was a familiar scene in the rural areas during the colder part of the year. The neighbors helped each other butcher a beef or hogs. This shows a beef hanging to be skinned.

**Centennial Tree**

The Centennial Planning Committee selected the White Birch Tree as the Centennial tree. One hundred of them have been ordered to be set out by citizens this spring. We hope that in the future that these trees will be recognized as the Stewardson Centennial Trees.

Apparently some time about 75 or 80 years ago, some one or some organization sponsored setting out soft maple trees. These trees all over town seem to be about the same age.

# Senior Queens



Anna Friese



Lucile Keller



Frieda Manhart



Grace Cecil



Selma Seward



Ella Kessler

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This page sponsored by KULL BROTHERS, Strasburg  
 Hardware and Appliances  
 In Memory of Mrs. Mary A. Webb and her  
 Granddaughter, Miss Grace Karl

## Senior Queens



The Stewardson Civic Stewards sponsored a Senior Centennial Queen Contest. Voting was done by donating to the Centennial, a vote for each penny. Anna Friese was elected Queen with Ella Kessler being named the first runner-up.

Above are Senior Centennial Queen Anna Friese, in the center. At her left is flower girl Lisa Hobson and at her right is crown bearer Jason Kessler.

In the back row are Queen candidates, left to right, Grace Cecil, Frieda Manhart, Ella Kessler, Lucile Keller and Selma Seward.



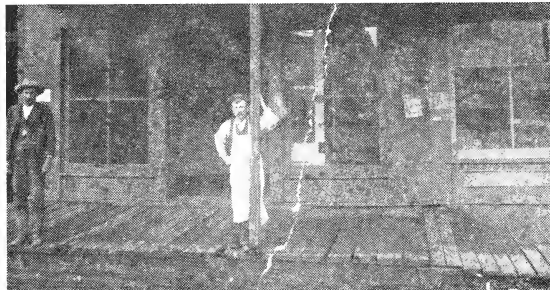
This is a view down the alley looking west from the Lutheran Church. Apparently it was taken from in the steeple of the Lutheran Church.



This house on West Fourth Street was built by the Baumgarten Family in the 1870's. It still looks much the same except that a porch has been added on the front. Dave Baumgarten lives there now.

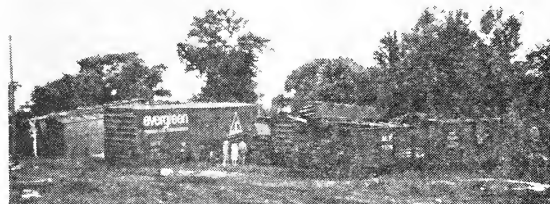


This house stood at 205 East Main. It was torn down two or three years ago. It was built by Dr. R. T. Worley. It was later purchased by Henry Duensing. This picture was taken in 1907.



This is a picture of one of the business places in Stewardson in the 1880's. The identification we have is that one of the men is George C. Schultz.

The picture shows the wood walks that were in the business district in Stewardson at this time. The signs on the windows show that they sold ice cream and lemonade.



A picture of the Norfolk and Western train wreck in 1967.



This man helped us so much getting information for this book that we wanted to put his picture in it. This was the best looking picture of him that we could find. He has changed a lot. This is Harold H. Ulmer.



This picture was taken in 1897. This building was on the west side of Pine St. where the Lions club Hall is now. The signs says Weber's Restaurant and from left to right are Oma Zalman, Albert Weber and his daughter Nell and Charlie Weber.

(The original picture had holes punched in it and they show in this picture.

## Elderly Housing Units



These eight units in the 300 block of West South Street, and six units in the 100 block of East South Second Street, are Low-Rent Housing Units being built by the Housing Authority of Shelby County.

Application for these units was made by the Village Board in 1964. Construction was started late in 1973, and they will be completed this year.

The present mayor of Stewardson, Glen W. Giesler, is a member of this County Board.

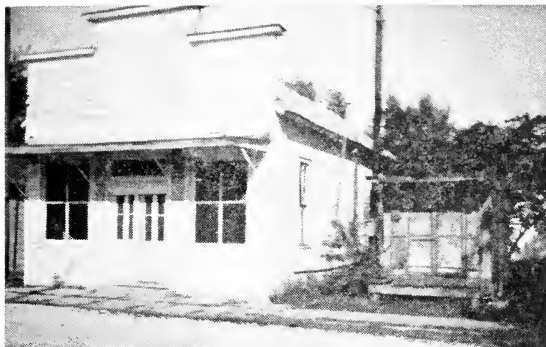
## AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING



The first room to the right is the American Legion Hall. This building was built by Fred Gruntman after the Block Building burned. He operated a grocery store there for a few years. The next room to the left is the Lions Club Hall. It is a part of the original Block Building. The next room is occupied by Daggett's Canvas and Aluminum Products.



This is a picture of one of the early Ford cars. The family wasn't identified. The picture was taken on North Spruce Street.



This building at 121 South Pine Street is empty at the present. It is one of the oldest business buildings left. About 22 years ago, Dean Roley started an upholstery shop here and ran it for 15 years. It has stood empty since then.

Before this, James Brady ran a store in this building and sold ice from the ice house that is shown to the right. He also delivered ice from house to house in Stewardson.

Jim Brady ran a gas station in the garage building that had housed the first Ford Agency on South Cedar Street.

At one time Jim Brady had a hay baler and did a lot of custom baling for the area farmers.

Mr. Hartman was a local painter for about twenty years. He operated a grocery store in this building for a short time. He traded the store to a Herbert Forcum, who lived eight or nine miles east of Stewardson, for all of his farming equipment and livestock, and the privilege to rent his farm.



This is a view looking west on Main Street from Cedar Street. The first house to the right is a house that was used by the Christian Church for a parsonage for several years before it was torn down, and the new church was built here.



This picture was taken from the railroad tracks looking east. It shows the end of a boxcar beside the building that stood where Ströhl's Grocery is now.

Across the street from the Opera Hall is Weber's Store. Notice the hitching racks in front of the stores.



The first farmers in this area used cream separators and sold their cream to the local creameries to be made into butter. The butter was shipped to the city markets. The farmer usually took his own cream to town, but sometimes they took turns picking up the cream cans from their neighbors and hauling them to the creamery.

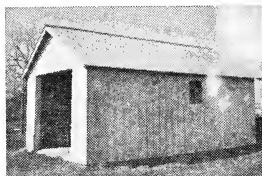
After the local creameries went out of business some cream was shipped to the city markets. Plants for bottling and processing whole milk were started and then there was a demand for milk haulers to pick up the milk from the local farmers and haul it to the plant. Walgreens at Shelbyville was one of the first plants to use whole milk.

This picture shows five local men, Forrest Campbell, Edd Bullerman, Harry Rothrock, Walter Wascher, and Vance Huffmaster beside new trucks in front of the Frede Chevrolet Garage in Decatur, Ill.

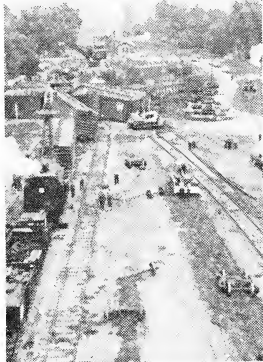
Mr Wascher says that they hauled the first milk to the Walgreen plant in Shelbyville. Standing in the door to the left is H. H. Ulmer, the local Chevrolet dealer, and Mr. Frede is beside the first truck. Milk hauling was an important business for many years. Some of the other milk haulers in our area were Harry Webb, Tom Miller, Paul Ströhl and Lloyd Johnson.

For the past several years milk has been hauled from the local farms in refrigerated tank trucks. At one time Lloyd Johnson operated a fleet of tank trucks.

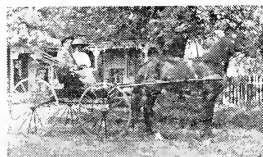
#### First Lutheran School



This building used for a private garage at 126 E. Main Street, on the Sam Buzzard property, was used as the first Lutheran school. It was moved from 402 East Main Street. Rev. Schlechte taught classes in this building.



This is a picture of the 1967, Norfolk and Western Train wreck, taken from the top of the Aubrey Jones lime bin.



A picture of the most up-to-date means of transportation in 1911. The occupants of the buggy are Edna Largent and Whitmer Grove.

The picture was taken by Charlie Weber and put on post cards.





The Muscle and Blood of Duddleston's Brick and Tile factory during the 1900's. The front from left to right is thought to be Jim Brady, Bill Binlon, and Joe Bone. The row from left to right is Sam Koppen, Tom Duddleston, and we think the man on the end is John West.



This is apparently a picture of a group that was helping someone put up their crop of hay. This picture shows the top of a hay derrick that was used to stack hay. The fork load of hay is shown being pulled up to be put on the top of the stack. A horse was used to pull the rope attached to the fork. The horse would pull the fork up and then it would be backed up to let the fork down.

Stacking the hay was an art as it had to be stacked so that the stack would settle straight and shed the water. Usually the men pitched the hay by hand on to the stack until it got too tall and then the derrick was used.

The hay was raked and dragged to the stack with a bull rake.



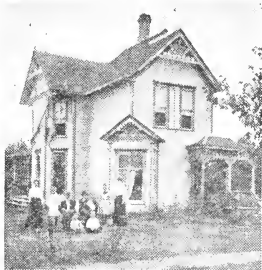
D. M. Duddleston and Wife



Duddleston House

This is an early picture of the brick house that stands at the Northwest corner of the intersection of Cedar and South Fourth Streets.

It was built by Duddlestons, who were business men in the early history of Stewardson. At one time they operated the Packing House and the Brick Yard.

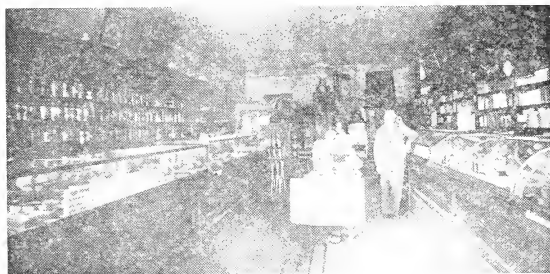


This was the Wm. Frede House at the corner of Walnut and North First Street, now the Herbert Schultz residence.

It was later remodeled with the masonry, siding and porches as it is now.



T. N. Robison Residence at the intersection of Cedar and South Third Streets.  
The Robisons named their home "The Cage."



A good inside picture of T. N. Robison's Drug Store on South Pine St.  
taken sometime between 1900 and 1910.



This is a picture of the G. W. Voris House on North Vine Street.  
Later F. F. Yahey remodeled it and brick veneered it. Ida Yahey lives there  
now.



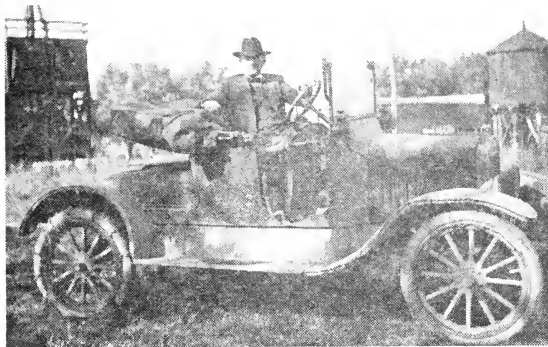
Mr. T. N. (Tom) Robison, a Druggist  
in Stewardson, Illinois from 1877 to 1913.



Mrs. T. N. Robison. She was the former  
Isabella (Belle) Stewardson, daughter  
of Wm. Stewardson II.



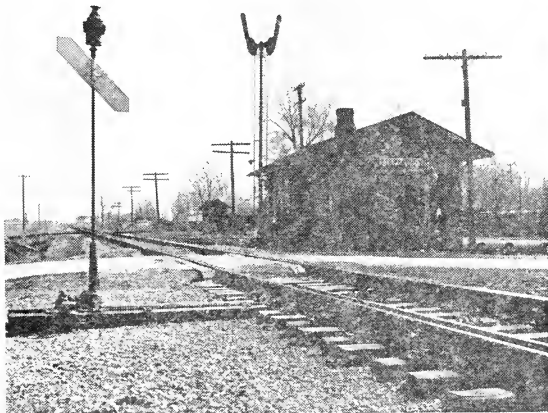
This is a picture of Glen Radloff  
in an early Model T Ford. The picture  
was taken on South First Street.



"Doc" Buzzard and his unstoppable Model T. Otis Shumard, one of Stewardson's master mechanics, rebuilt this car equipping it with both a Model T transmission and a Chevrolet transmission. It was the only car in the county with six gears forward and three gears in reverse.



This is a picture of the front of T. N. Robison's Drug Store on the west side of the first block of South Pine Street. His son-in-law, R. A. Peters later moved this building to the rear of the lot and built on to the front. Most of the business houses of early Stewardson looked much like this drug store.



The Nickel Plate Depot at the Cedar Street Crossing.

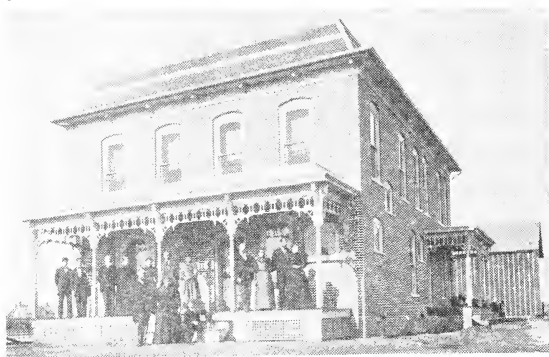
Until automobiles and trucks became the principle means of transportation, this was a busy place. Four passenger trains a day came through town. The Plug was not only a popular mode of travel, but it brought in a lot of freight and express. In the early 1900's, dray operators would deliver this freight to the local merchants.

A local freight came through Stewardson, daily, also, and had more freight to unload at the depot. The telegraph office was in this building for many years. It was the hub of a lot of activity in our village.



These young ladies display the fashions of the day. They are decked out in their Sunday best. This picture was taken in St. Louis, Mo. on Sunday, June 5, 1911. The driver is Maude Barnett and her Co-pilot is Maude Powell. The three women in the back seat from left to right are: Edith Duddleston, Eva Stansfield, and Nellie Johnson.

This page sponsored by S. D. BUZZARD, D.V.M. Phone No. 8, Stewardson  
C. E. BUESKING STANDARD OIL, Strasburg  
BURKLANDS GREENHOUSES, Effingham  
GRACE FALK CECIL, Falk Dry Goods, Stewardson



**PICTURE OF HARRY YORK HOUSE — NOW FUNERAL HOME**

Left to right: Jesse York, Harry York (dentist), Mr. and Mrs. Hillsbeck (Mrs. H. H. Senior's parents), Dora York, Milan York, Daisy York, Mr. and Mrs. Charles York, Tom and Laura Righter;  
Front row: Mr. and Mrs. H. H. York, Senior; Elvira York; seated, Arthur York.



The Henry Ulmer home in 1899. It stood just east of Springer Chevrolet Garage at 117 E. Main Street.



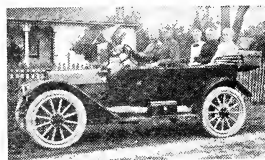
This is looking south down Pine Street from Main in about 1913.



Mr. John W. Homrighous purchased one half section of land in 1863. The 1881 History of Shelby and Moultrie Counties states, "The large and commodious brick dwelling house and out-houses which ornaments the farm have been built by Mr. Homrighous since he came into possession of the property. The dwelling house is erected on a mound, and the land recedes in all directions, and from this eminence he has a commanding view of the country for miles around."

This farm includes the first land recorded in Prairie Township. George W. Reams recorded 41 acres on Sept. 5, 1836.

Mrs. Ida Yakey now owns the old Homrighous homestead.



This is a picture of an early car. The make isn't known. Do you recognize it?

The man at the left is John Baumgarten.



The office of the Falk Produce Co. on North Pine Street during the latter 1930's. Gib Brummerstedt is sitting behind the desk. Frank Falk is in foreground.

Frank Falk lived at Herborn, but he had been a local hay buyer in this area.

### The Old Home

The house still stands on the shady street

In the little village dear,  
As it stood in the days that are gone by



Left to right: Paul Hoyer, John Ferguson, Herschel Johnson, Karl Lugar, Glen Frede, Carl Storm, Tom Yarbrough, Irvin Rozine, Ed Schultz, and Don (Soup) Walker.

The days of yester year.  
And as of old it is well kept  
Its appearance it quite fair,  
But now its windows look at me  
With a strange and vacant stare.  
The spacious yard is neat and trim,  
But the shrubs and trees I knew,  
Put there by loving hands now still,  
I miss from the present view,  
Save one, at the back, a sturdy tree  
Beside the kitchen door,  
Which offers still its friendly shade  
As in those days of yore.  
In front the self same maple trees  
In leafy verdure stand,  
Perennial as memory  
Emblem of strength so grand.  
Yes, the place looks very much the same,

Activity and life are there,  
But the atmosphere is different  
I am a stranger there.

Time was, I called that dear house,  
home,

When its portals were thrown wide,  
To welcome me and shelter me,  
There my loved ones did abide.  
Fond parents whose every thought and  
look

Were imbued with love for me,  
Now there tender care and kindly deeds  
Are a cherished memory.  
In that home were joy and laughter  
Along with work and song,  
There were company and friendships  
As glided the years along.  
Childhood was one bright, summer day  
With never a thought or care,  
And never a dream that it all would  
pass

Like a golden vision, rare.  
There maidenhood came on apace  
With its joys and interests new,  
And thought became more settled,  
With a grownup mental view,  
Then came the happy wedding day,  
The flower window looked its best  
As we stood there to take the sacred  
vows,

On the morn of a new happiness,  
The years move happily along  
With many a glad return,  
To the dear old home and the loved  
ones there

For whom my heart did yearn.  
But the time of separation came,  
And now before my gaze  
Like a moving picture show there pass  
The scenes of other days.

I see again the cheerful fire,  
Three chairs in its friendly glow,  
The books we read! the talks we had!  
With eyes and hearts aglow.  
That window gay with gorgeous blooms  
When winter snows blew cold,  
Is as vivid now in memory  
As 'twas in days of old.

The house still stands in the village fair  
Still shaded by maples, tall,  
And I picture the life I used to know  
Within its friendly walls.

The smiles, the tears, the work, the  
play,

The happy joke or song,  
The visits of friends and relatives  
As the swift years sped along.  
The mental picture remains intact,  
It cannot change with time,  
And I know that every good thought  
and act

Was an influence most sublime,  
As indestructable and true  
As the loved ones, precious, dear,  
Who live and rejoice in the Great Beyond

While their influence lingers here.  
—Olive Reeder Miller.



This is the Arch Beals residence, the first house north of Stewardson on Route 32. Mr. Beals was one of the first settlers in the area.

In the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Arch Beals, his son Walt, and three of his daughters, Elta, Sylvia, and Geldya. This house was built about 1904.



An early picture of the Block Building.

Ms. Miller is the daughter of an early Stewardson businessman, C. T. Reeder.

## Closing Acknowledgements and Poem

### CENTENNIAL PATRONS

Edward Anderson  
Margaret Anderson  
Geraldine's Beauty Shop  
Heidi's Antiques  
Edwin Manhart  
Wayne Moomaw  
Kathleen & Delbert Rentfro  
Mollie & Ruby Krumreich  
Matilda Huffmaster  
Mary Keene  
Anna Frieze  
Chester & Betty Burgess  
Selma Seward  
Zelma Hagerman  
Marla Jo Storm  
Vincent D. Storm  
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Keller  
James T. Jiter  
Danney E. Frieze  
Mr. & Mrs. Orty Baumgarten  
Larry, Donna, Mike &  
Michelle Schultz  
Eugene & Gail Boldt  
Repr. George E. Shipley  
Lawrence H. & Donna E. Steineman  
Albert & Caroline Vonderheide  
Grace (Mietzner) Mueller  
Donna Mueller  
Norma Mueller  
Ken & Grace Knop

Glenda Knop  
Kenna Knop  
Kevin Knop  
Kim Knop  
Kyle Knop  
James "Bert" Rogers  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Rentfro  
Clarence (Sonny) & Clara Rosine  
Vernie V. & Mary M. Boldt  
Charles & Geraldine Augenstein  
Paul & Ruth Volkman  
Gerald, Mildred, Gary &  
Teresa Weber  
Paul Krumreich  
Irvin & Ruby Frieze  
Clinton A. & Louise Frieze  
C. Eddie Frieze  
David B. Frieze  
Diane Adams  
Dale Adams  
Charles W. & Edna A. Knop  
Eugene & Arlene Frieze, Dennis,  
Sharon, Steven, Karla &  
Kimberley  
Eva Shuck  
Arden French  
Leona & Cobert Lugar  
Oscar & Melva Kessler  
Helen & Jack Ashenbamer  
Mrs. Herman Noffke  
Mr. & Mrs. L. Eugene Weber

Charles Huffmaster  
Janet Steineman  
Gary Steineman  
Glen H. Radloff  
Donald, Sharon & Christine Tate  
Tracey E. Hoyer  
Ralph W. Hoyer  
V. Marguerite Webb  
Z. Jeannette Klepzig  
Goldya M. Schuyler  
Kenton, Evelyn, Kathy &  
Bradley Augenstein  
X. B. & Catherine Butcher  
Mary & Tom Butcher  
Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Thompson  
Mrs. Ward Roberts  
Mary Roberts  
Dwane E. & Beatrice Hartman  
Lloyd & Mary Kessler  
Diane Schultz  
Julie Schultz  
Michael Schultz  
Mark Schultz  
Michelle Ann Weber  
Todd D. Weber  
Ervin Mueller  
Titus, Maxine, Ralph & Ray Vogel  
Edith Vogel  
Mr. & Mrs. Von Storm  
Sam, Susan, Bradley & Christie  
Buzzard

### Thank You

It is with great anticipation that the people of the Stewardson community are planning for the 100 year celebration of the founding of Stewardson.

This celebration is possible only because many people were willing to give countless hours and effort preparing for this celebration and individuals and organizations have contributed generously of their money.

We who compiled the history of Stewardson hope we have given just tribute and respect to those people responsible for the past 100 years of Stewardson's progress.

Youth—You are Stewardson's future.

### Our World

We make the world in which we live  
By what we gather and what we give.

By our daily deeds and the things we say  
By what we keep and cast away.

We make our world by the life we lead  
By the friends we have and the books we read,

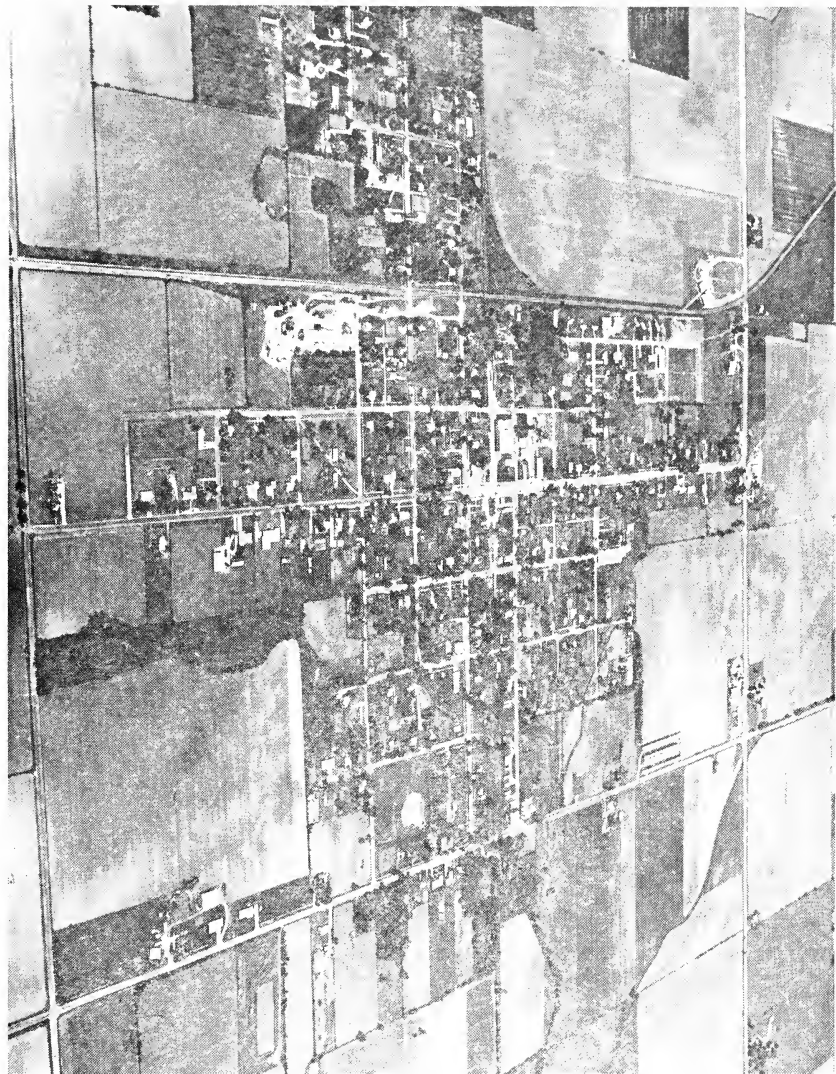
By the pity we show in the hour of care  
By the loads we lift and the love we share,

We make our world by the goals we pursue  
By the heights we seek and the higher view,

By the hopes and dreams that meet the sun  
And the will to fight till the heights are won,

What is this place in which we dwell,  
A hut — A palace — A heaven or hell,

We make our world and here we live,  
By what we gather and what we give.



Aerial Photo of Modern Stewardson by Ernie Newberry, Jr.

## Centennial Notes



# Thank You

R. I. Dove and Franklin E. Dove

Wayne Huffmaster

Hazel Kessler, Stewardson

Chas. E. Anderson, Maurine Anderson,  
Robert and Kathleen Anderson, Randy  
and Helen Mares, Edward and  
Margaret Anderson

Donald and Betty Harrison, Stewardson

Albert Cecconi and Annette Cecconi

Best Wishes—Mr. & Mrs. Ira Gawthorp

Carl and Betty Giesler

In Memory of

Mrs. Mary A. Webb and her  
Granddaughter, Miss Grace Karl

Willa Mietzner

Harold and Hazel Rothrock

Charles and Vivian Kessler

Mr. & Mrs. Wilber Waters, Stewardson

Harold and Lela Ulmer

Ora and Juanita Fritz

In Memory of

The Doc Stephens Family  
The Jim Brady Family  
The H. D. Brady Family

The Family of Elmer and Ruby Dappert

Mary and Harry Falk

Grace Falk Cecil

Falk Dry Goods—1951 - 1958

Jansen's Department Store, Effingham

Peter Kollinger, M.D., Prof. Corp.

Daisy and Jr. Hobson's  
Barber and Upholstery Shops

Burl and Maurine Hobson,  
Hobson Garage  
in F.T. Engel Building, Stewardson

Harold, Wilma and Debbie Kessler  
Bill and Ella Kessler

Joan of Arc Chapter

Order of Eastern Star, Stewardson

Gizmo Fashions and Depot  
John and Margaret Falk

James Zalman Grain Bin Construction  
Chicago New Products Bins  
Mayrath Augers

Donald Ruff, Pioneer Seed Corn  
Strasburg, Phone 644-3085

Latch's Grocery  
Joe and Dorothy Latch

Marguerite's Beauty Shop

Compliments of "Prairie Farms Dairy"

Kwik Wash Laundry & Car Wash  
Ralph Mietzner

Mrs. Eloise (Rentfrow) Manuel  
and Ferne Webb

Renshaw Superway, Strasburg

Dust and Son Auto Supply

Effingham State Bank  
The Blue Chip Bank, Effingham

Coca Cola Bottling Co., Mattoon

Dagwood's Union 76 Service  
Rt. 32, Stewardson, Ph. 682-3344  
Tune Up and Major Overhaul

Corley International, Inc.

Stewardson-Strasburg Senior Class of '73

Shelby County Democratic Officers  
Delores Bruns, County Clerk  
Charles R. "Bob" Hayden, Circuit Clerk  
Irl Schuyler, Superintendent  
Educational Service Region  
Shelby County

Robert A. Collins, Sheriff  
Robert Lee Broverman, States Attorney

Lowell Moomaw, Trucking Service

Heuerman and Grunloh, Teutopolis  
Radio & T.V.—R.C.A. & Zenith Dealer

Fry Equipment Co.  
Effingham, Ill.—Route 32-33 North

Falk Produce, Stewardson

Falk Repair Shop—Farm Machinery  
Overhauling and Welding, Strasburg

First Federal Savings and Loan  
Association of Shelbyville, Illinois

Rail & Truck Salvage, Stewardson

Ellmans Depart. Store, Effingham

Wente Auto Parts  
1402 South Willow, Effingham

Northern Propane Gas Company  
1417 Main Street, Windsor, Ph. GL9-2141

Martin's I.G.A.—Home of So-Low Prices

The Stewardson Clipper and the Ryans

G. W. Prosser and Son Asphalt Co.  
213 Fourth Morgan St., Shelbyville

Jan's Beauty Salon

Dean Kessler Family

Ed and Wilbur Meers

Registered Hamp. & Yorkshire Hogs  
2 Miles South of Stewardson

Ray Richards Insurance Agency  
107 W. Main Street  
Ph. 682-5500, Stewardson

Monroe Bartels, Inc.  
Concrete Contractors, Effingham  
Phone 868-2824 or 868-2637

Larry Shumard, Moultrie-Shelby  
F-S Agent

Don M. Keller, Coun'ty Companies  
Insurance Agent

S&V Stone Quarry, Altamont  
Quarry, 4 Miles NE of Stewardson  
Rock of all Kinds

Stewardson Fabric Center, Stewardson  
Joe and Marie Falk

Effingham Parts Service—Auto Parts  
307 E. Fayette, Effingham, Ill.

Beals Motor Co.  
Ph. 682-3296, Stewardson, Ill.  
Your Ford Dealer Since 1935

Weber Bros., Eq. Inc.  
The Store of Quality and Good Service  
Ph. 857-3135, Teutopolis, Ill.

Curtis Harvestore, Effingham  
Jewel Jenne, Sales Representative

C. E. Buesking, Your Standard  
Oil Dealer, Strasburg

Burkland's Greenhouse  
FTD Florist—40 Years on Location  
Ph. 342-4184, Effingham

Calverts Ceramics  
711 W. Main, Shelbyville

Dowler Equip. Co., Bob Largent, Mgr.  
Your Dealer for New Holland, Kewanee  
and Other Fine Lines—Shelbyville

Effingham Monument Works,  
John W. Warren, Mgr.  
Route 32 North, Effingham

Strasburg State Bank—Member FDIC  
Strasburg, Illinois

Mayhood Ready Mix  
Ph. 347-7125, Effingham

Banner Township Mutual Fire  
Insurance Company—Serving the Area  
For 96 Years—1878 - 1974

Stewardson National Bank  
Member FDIC  
Ph. 682-3236, Stewardson

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Stewardson, Illinois

Theo. Alwardt—Your Sunoco Distributor  
Ph. 682-3386, Stewardson

Juhnke Feed Mill, Strasburg

Stewardson Savings & Loan Association  
107 W. Main Street  
Ph. 682-5500, Stewardson

W. S. Broom & Co.  
Furniture, Carpets & Appliances  
Effingham, Illinois

Baumgarten Construction & Supplies  
Ph. 682-3851, Stewardson

E. Blankenship & Co., Inc.—Auto Parts  
411 E. Fayette Ave., Effingham

Jones Trucking Service  
Aubrey and Jerry Jones, Stewardson

Stewardson-Strasburg Education Assoc.  
“... Congratulations to Stewardson on  
Your First 100 Years. Best Wishes for  
the Future.”  
Rolland F. Tipsword  
State Representative

Stevens Hardware, Effingham

Stewardson Senior Citizens  
Boldt Custom Spraying  
Ph. 682-3672, Stewardson

Bennett Tire Co.—Wholesale Tire Service  
Ph. 459-2115, Windsor

Brummerstedt Funeral Home  
Ambulance Service  
Stewardson, Illinois

Daggett's Canvas & Alum. Products  
“We Cover Anything Under the Sun”  
Stewardson, Illinois

Springer Chevrolet  
Lynn and Becky Springer, Stewardson

Leo, Mabel and Darrell Rincker  
Trixler Seeds—Registered Suffolk Sheep  
Feeder of Fat Cattle

Village of Stewardson

Stewardson Lions Club

Shelby Electric Cooperative

Max E. Tabbert, Auctioneer  
Ph. 644-2479, Stewardson

Moultrie-Shelby Farm Service, Inc.

Kull Brothers—Hardware & Appliances  
Strasburg, Illinois

Waggoner's Clothing & Family Shoes  
Shelbyville, Illinois

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Gene Kull - Grace Greentown  
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Bin Sweeps—Superior Quality & Service

Ed and Rose Zalman  
39 Years in Postal Service

John Wittenberg Grain Co.  
John and Edith Wittenberg, Strasburg

## Overheard

"It's not the worst of times, nor is it the very best of times. It's a year about like the year before and the year to come. Main Street is still here—course, it's improved a mite. A number of old familiar business houses are gone. But there is some new ones—thrivin', too. Can't get ice cream soda no more, the Mill Pond's a thing of the past, and the picture show has been replaced with TV. We lost our beautiful white steeple twenty years or more ago. Some of the other churches have disappeared, too. But, we still have four lively ones and prospering, too, with their new and remodeled church buildings.

"Say, ain't the construction business been good? And we are packin' meat again. The roof on the old plant fell in a year or so ago, you know. The elevator sure done good last year, but this year—well, we'll see. Got one or two tolerable nice store buildings standin' empty yet, just waitin' for some young, enterprisin' young man or woman. Housing is crowdin' up though, with kids a-marryin' and people movin' in. Say, now, ain't we got some mighty friendly folk? Some of the new ones comin' in said they sure was made to feel welcome, not like some places they went to. I tell you, most of us don't realize it yet, but there's some new forces in the wind that's a-gonna change our old town. Some for the better and maybe some not so good. But they are there and I hope we can control them so we can have the best of both the old and the new. There's gonna be more new people movin' in. Yes sir, Farley, I pronounce her generally healthy. Don't see much of nothin' wrong with this town."

"I know Doc. But ain't she a Doozey!"

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